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Harry Ladd - Diary and field notes, 1934 - Vol. 1

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HL
- 1934 -



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Volume I !

Mothe Lam,

Thurs. June 28, 1934

Dear Ed -

Left Lakemba this morning at 8⁰⁰ on M & H's Lei. Raining at the start but it cleared nicely & with a fair wind we anchored in Mothe's lagoon at 3³⁰. I put in the balance of the day examining the volcanics near the village (fresh looking flows & agglomerates) & in getting some general idea of the island & its reefs from the hills (also collected some thrips & spiders for you!) Expected to have tomorrow here and planned an all day trip to Karoni but on returning to the village at nightfall I learned that the skipper expected to load by moonlight & sail at dawn for Komo - damn! Karoni is a ls. island, smaller than Mothe

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but enclosed by the same irregular barrier. Karomi is much dissected & as it lies so close to a volcanic mass there may be good fossils. Anyway, I've made the skipper promise me 1/2 hour ashore on our way out.

Canoe arrangements are all made satisfactorily. Am getting only one canoe but it's the big 8-fathom baby that the Tutings used. It's now in Kambara but due back on Saturday. It will sail to Namuka and meet me there. Am chartering it with 2 men for an indefinite period at 30s per week. That damned cheap! Two men @ 1/6 per day = 21s & even a small canoe costs 1s per day = 28s per week. I'm getting the best canoe in Lan for only 2s more per week! Your Willy is an angel from

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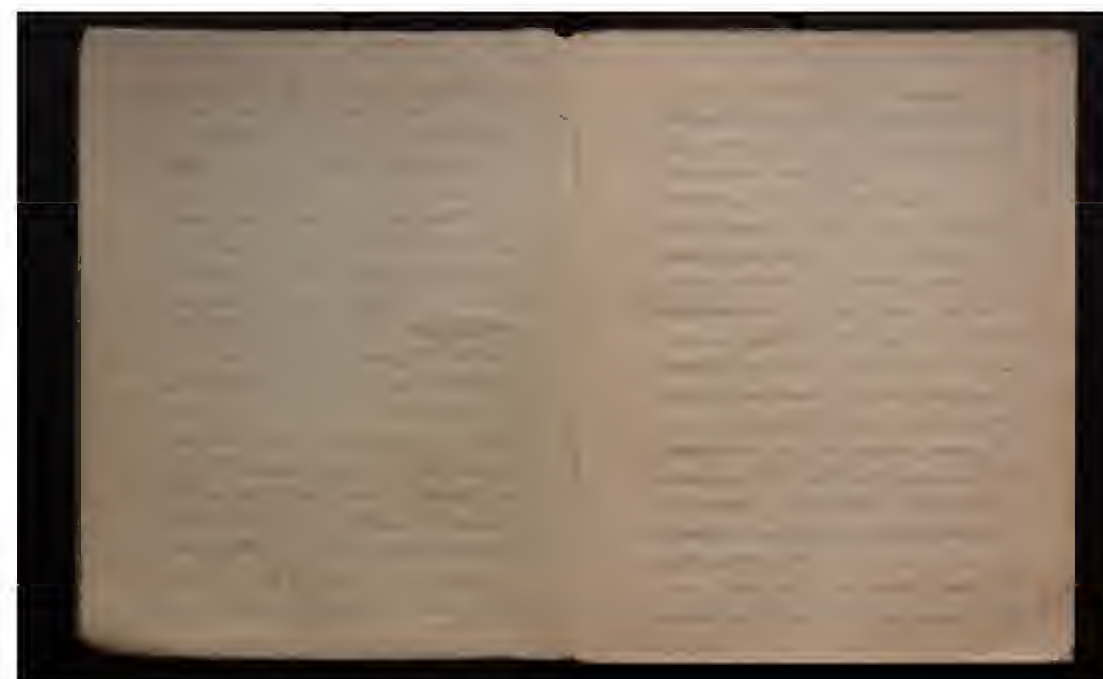
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heaven! Southern Lan is quite different place when one doesn't need to worry about petty details & when one has Lemkana! Had a swell chicken dinner tonight with Bob Evam who runs the store here (he is Arthur's son). After dinner we had our ? & now, of course, I'm full of yangona! Willy has just delivered a long lecture on "one-shelled animals" holding everyone's attention & bringing forth murmurs of astonishment.

The Tutings have left an unenviable reputation for stinginess among the natives - both here and in Lakemba. Of course one doesn't know how much to believe - such stories grow like snowballs..

This town is filled with children & slant-eyed women. If I weren't



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practically a married man.....!

Cheerio! I'm deserting you for more yangona! Love to Ruth - Harry.

On board LEI

June 29th

Dear Ed -

Had my half hour on Karoni this morning & collected 2 sacks of beautiful orbitoids - a real foram ls in places - smaller foram as molds but larger ones perfectly preserved. Corals rare & poorly preserved. Nine-tenths of the ls. is porous & pitted & there is lots of secondary stuff. Never-the-less I shall stop off at Karam again if possible - while sailing from Namuka to Oneata. Shall try a map as the outline of the island interests me.

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We discharged passengers at noon on Komo and now (4³⁰ PM) are nearing Lakemba. Its a beautiful day with a gentle SE wind. I've been basking in the sun (sans shirt) & feeling simply swell. Willy is deep in Golden Horn, Yeats Brown's remarkable war book. I suppose you are leaning over the rail of the Aorangi & calling "Sa mothe!" to your friends.

Bon voyage, Edward!

Harry.

P.S. - Add this to "Spice of Life in The South Seas" - When I awoke Tuesday morning in Loma loma it was blowing like hell & Stockwell & I agreed that the Adimoce surely would not start as planned.



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I reconciled myself to a day of office work, reading & beer. Since I had been on a cutter for two days I started off with a big dose of Fruit Salts. A few minutes later Willy came in -- "Are you all ready, Doctor? They are just pulling up the anchor." -- "Sure, Willy," I replied, "I'm ready !!"

H.

Lakemla, Sat. June 30th

Dear Ed --

Swell day! Have gotten the mollusk fauna I predicted from Lakemla -- associated with tremendous orbitoids. At least one of my Nasongo mollusks has wandered out to Lan!

Eason is giving a big yangona party tonight -- Fiji grog & radio music (he gets excellent reception here) Even Willy has been persuaded

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to attend. (Thank God there is to be no dancing!
[[/underline]])

Lots of boat complications, all of which I shan't take time to explain. Anyway I sail on the LEI at noon for Vanna Vatu, an island as yet unvisited by a geologist. Am guaranteed 9 hours of daylight ashore & that I figure is worth £ 2-0-0. We shall see! Stewart claims island is all ls. as far as he knows. Willy says the passage is difficult (where China cutter was wrecked, remember?)

Sa mothe

Harry

Lakemla, Sunday July 1st

Dear Ed --

An overcast day & no

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wind but there has been a big storm to the south of us somewhere & the "Lokas" are on. We could clear the passage all right but would be unable to load any copra at Vanna Vatu so the trip is off. The Lokas may be on one day -- 2 days -- or a week! My chances of Vanna Vatu are slim. Shall probably be off to Namuka Tuesday or Wednesday -- weather permitting.

The Tui Valavala came in today, having left Suva June 28th (evening) No word from you so I assume you were unable to see Sukuna. Am writing Naian today to have the China cutter Navitoka stand by on August 15th. It would cost me £16-0-0 to go to Suva

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on the LEI & I want to avoid that if possible.

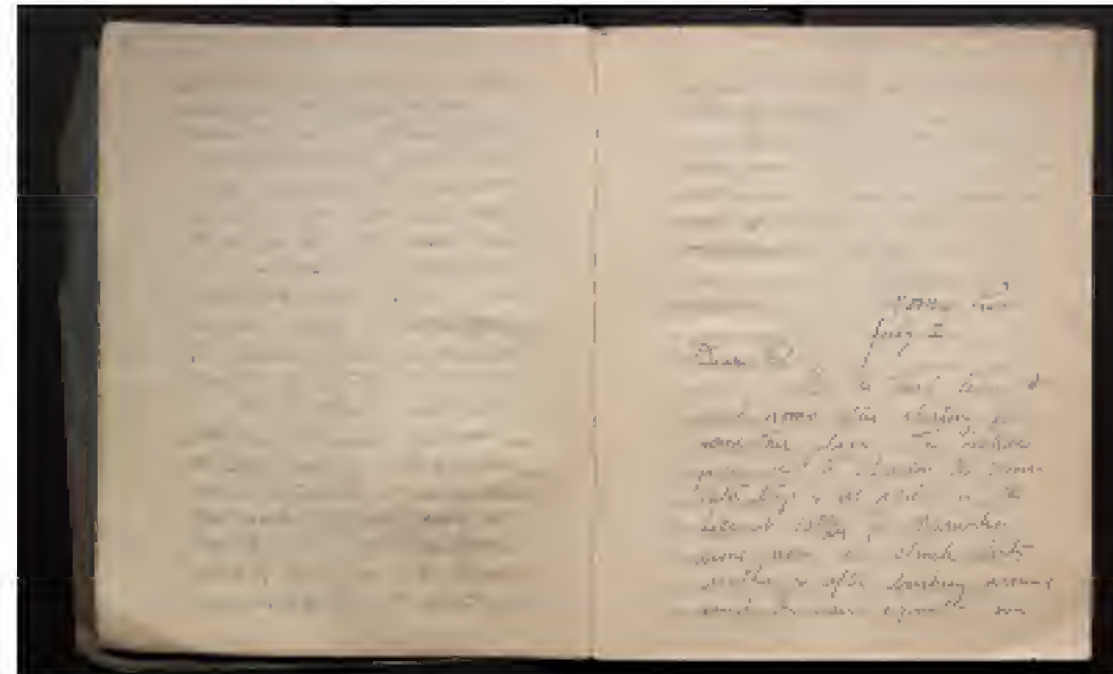
Gentle showers now falling! My friend Eason has some good books so I'm going to put my feet up & take a bit of Sunday rest. See you later --

Harry

Komo, Lau
July 2
Dear Ed --

For the third time I reach Komo after starting for some other place! The "Lokai" forced me to abandon the Vanna Vatu trip & we sailed in the Lei at 10:30 am for Namuka. About noon we struck dirty weather & after bucking around amid the rain squalls we

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abandoned our chances for Namuka & headed for Komo. Made the passage just after dark. Willy & I went ashore, climbed over the island to this village on the opposite side & are now having a bit of yangona while the rain pours outside (shades of Tuvutha!). I hope we are not in for another long spell of bad weather. Christ -- here it is July! -- the dry season should start soon!

I certainly enjoyed my visit with young Eason. He is as hospitable as Stockwell (though on less grand a scale -- thank God!) He will probably be away when we return but

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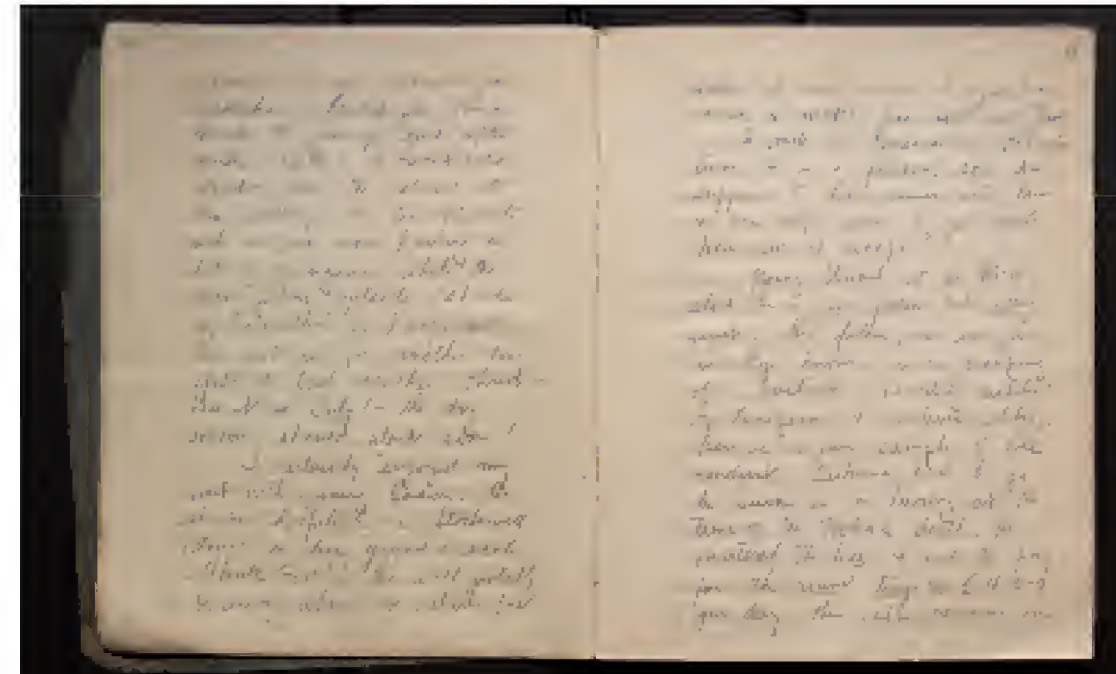
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Willy & I have orders to open his house and make free with everything.

I met the missionary, Mr. Green, twice. He is a pleasant sort. I'm supposed to have dinner with him & his wife when I get back. How can I escape?

Young Stewart at the M-H store is a good fellow but very quiet. His father, as everyone in Fiji knows, is a grasping old bastard -- heartily disliked by Europeans & natives alike. Here is a fair sample of his conduct. Sukuna had to go to Suva in a hurry at the time of Roko's death. He chartered the Lei & had to pay for the round trip @ £4-0-0 per day. Then, after arriving in

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Suva he discovered that he had to return to Lakemba on the Lei and damn if old Steward didn't make him pay £ 2-0-0 passage back! Steward claimed that the charter ended in Suva!

My trips to Mothe and Karoni cost us £ 2-0-0, one pound for me & the same for Willy. The Namuka jaunt was set at £ 3-0-0 but I objected & got him to knock of 10s.

We had a couple of good parties at Eason's - the radio furnishing excellent music to accompany the yangona. Ratu Jopi & the Turangani-Koro cracked jokes all evening & all the village bells attended (I didn't ring any!) - No

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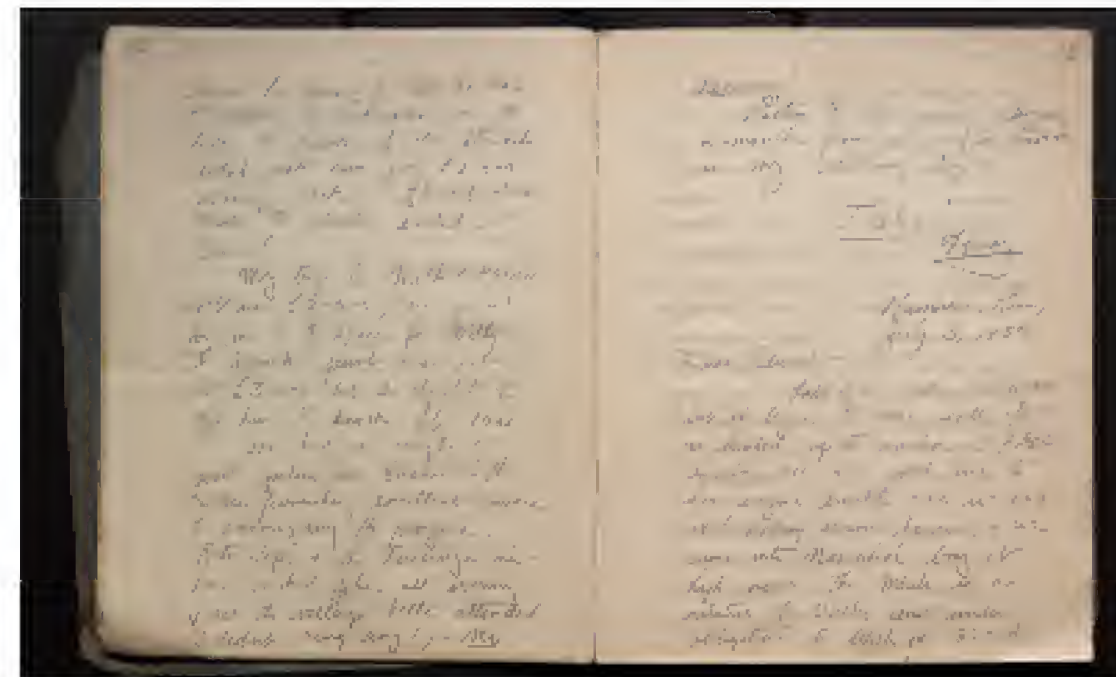
dancing !

Listen to the rain! - Anyway, 2 months from day-after-tomorrow is my wedding day -

Taki!
Harry

Namuka, Lan
July 3, 1934
Dear Edward -

Hell of a rain last night but it began to clear shortly after we hauled up the anchor at 7³⁰ AM. A calm sea & a good time to have engine trouble - so we had it! Nothing serious, however, & we came into Namuka's bay at high noon. The Mbuli is a relative of Willy and under obligation to Willy for 60-odd



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baskets of yams - so Willy took his house (the best in town) & many baskets of food were presented with great ceremonies! We unpacked & spent the balance of the afternoon (tide too high for shore work) taking bottom samples in the bay. Sabben's sampler works beautifully. Samples show considerable variation - one very rich in larger forams.

More later - here comes LEVU KANA! Young Stewart is dining with me.

Cheerio -

Harry

Namuka

July 4th

Darling - (I mean, Dear Ed! - these bluebooks confusing!) -

Well, the glorious 4th has

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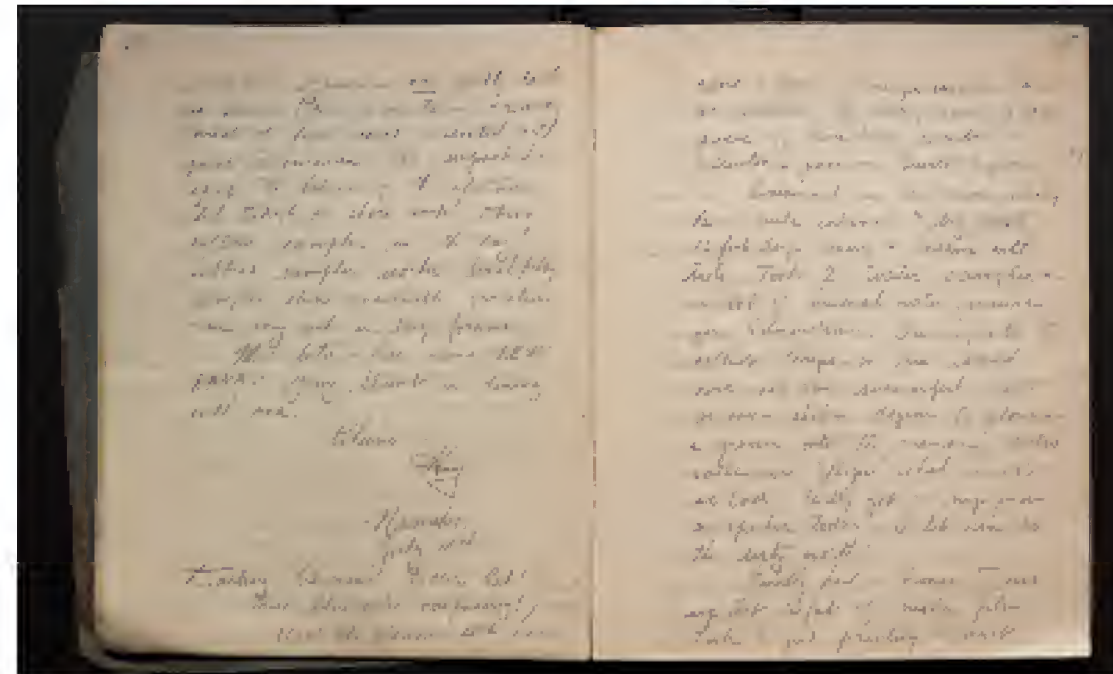
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come & gone. No fireworks here - we celebrated by doing some 9,000 paces of limestone coast! - "Brunton & pace - Brunton & pace ...!"

Examined a big cave nearly 1/2 a mile inland - big pool 10 feet deep rising & falling with tide. Took 2 water samples & a lot of brackish water prawns for Edmondson. Our efforts to collect thrips on this island have not been successful, though we have shaken dozens of flowers & grasses onto the canvas. Willie calls 'em "flips", which is not so bad! Willy got a nip from a spider today - I let him do the dirty work!

Finally had a chance to use up that 10 feet of movie film. Took a girl painting a most



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intricate piece of tapa -- also a boy spreading copra out to dry.

Willy is certainly a head man in this town! Chicken again tonight. Two men have the job of providing us with vegetables, etc. -- one comes in the AM & one in the PM -- Shades of Notha & the days of my "starvation"!

The copies of the Geographic that I brought along will, like my pack of cards, soon be ready for the "glass case"! We quite often wish you were here, Ed! Here's a bowl of yanjana to you!

[[inserted in margin with arrow to previous paragraph]] (Willy cut a fine walking stick for you in Lakemla.)
[[/end inserted note]]

Harry

P.S. --
Lest you forget -- 2 months

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from tonight is my wedding night -- so do you drink something-or-other to me!

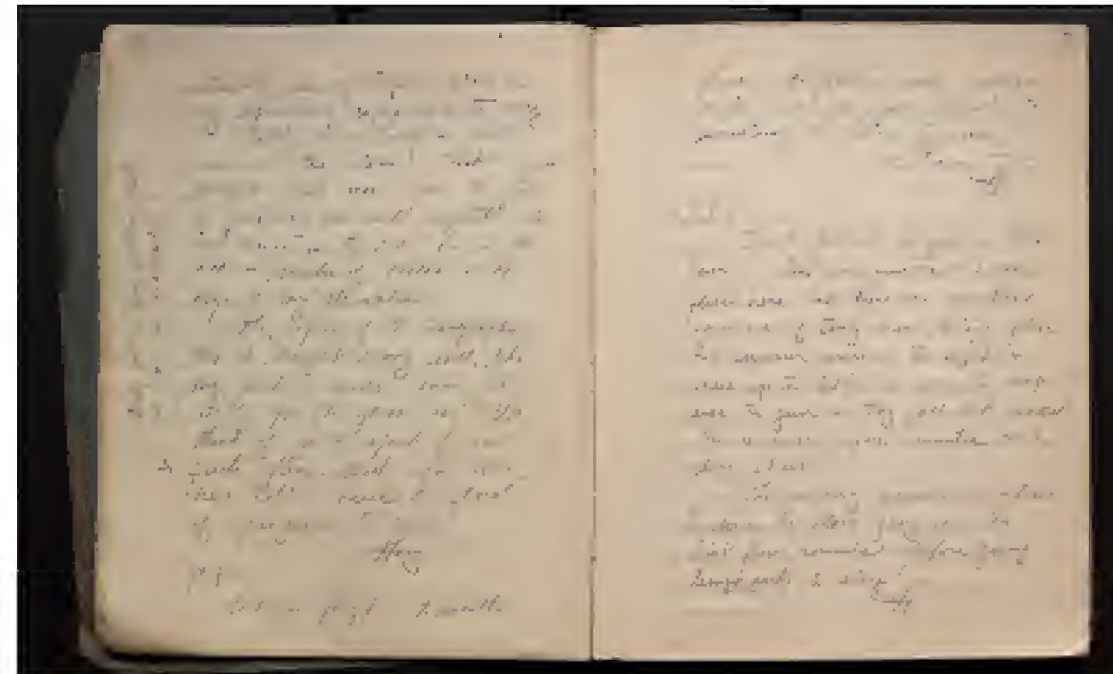
cheers --
H.

P.P.S.
thank God I bought a Flit gun! Few mosquitoes & house flies here but there are countless numbers of tiny non-biting flies that swarm around the lights & mess up the table. I cover the map, use the gun & they fall like snow! then I have a few minutes on a clean sheet.

The evening grows old -- time to join the floor gang for the last few rounds -- before going temporarily to sleep!

H.

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Before breakfast this morning Dr. Ladd & his guide went around the Eastern Coast and I stay home as a Chief Cook, getting ready some things to chew on their way back. After breakfast we went up to one of the biggest Caves on the Island (Namukas). I took the sound also. I dive down with one of the bottles to get the Water samples. This spot wasn't so deep about 10 ft in depths. I took my first dive down right to the bottom with my finger on the bottle so to keep it close until I reach bottom. I open my eyes where I was under I hardly see any it was a pitch [^] dark so I left the bottle under water and went up for breath before I got to surface I got my blinking' head bump on one those mad rocks so I nearly yell I thought it was a big shark chewed my hair off so I went down again

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for the bottle I lost the spot where this mad bottle was so I [^] start to fill around for about three minutes and I find the bottle but before reaching the ~~supp~~ surface I drank about 5 to 10 gallons of this mad brackish water, because I was breathless, but the smell of this brackish water under water exactly the smell on the southern point at Juonca' village. But the funny part of it I did not tell or ~~let~~ let Dr. Ladd know.

Wm. M. Wainifelo

Namuka

July 5th

Dear Ed -

Above is a contribution from Willy, written just before we turned in last night. (I'll get him to sign the next one!)

Light showers Today off &



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on -- and two damned cool to suit my taste. I paced and cracked rox for 4-1/2 hours & spent the balance of the day plotting. No startling discoveries but the map is about half done.

Tonight our 5th chicken came in! I had Willy carry it -- anything for a change! I'll be crowing and laying eggs if this keeps up much longer!

Each night I have my bath on the Chinaman's little cement laundry & as I scrub I listen to Chinese Victrola records (I dare not call it music!) The Chinaman speaks no English (except numbers plus the words "shilling" "sixpence" and "threepence"!) and my Chinese isn't all it might be but we get on

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well with a few words of Fijian (the three most important being "Mlula! and "Sisili" and "Mothe"!)

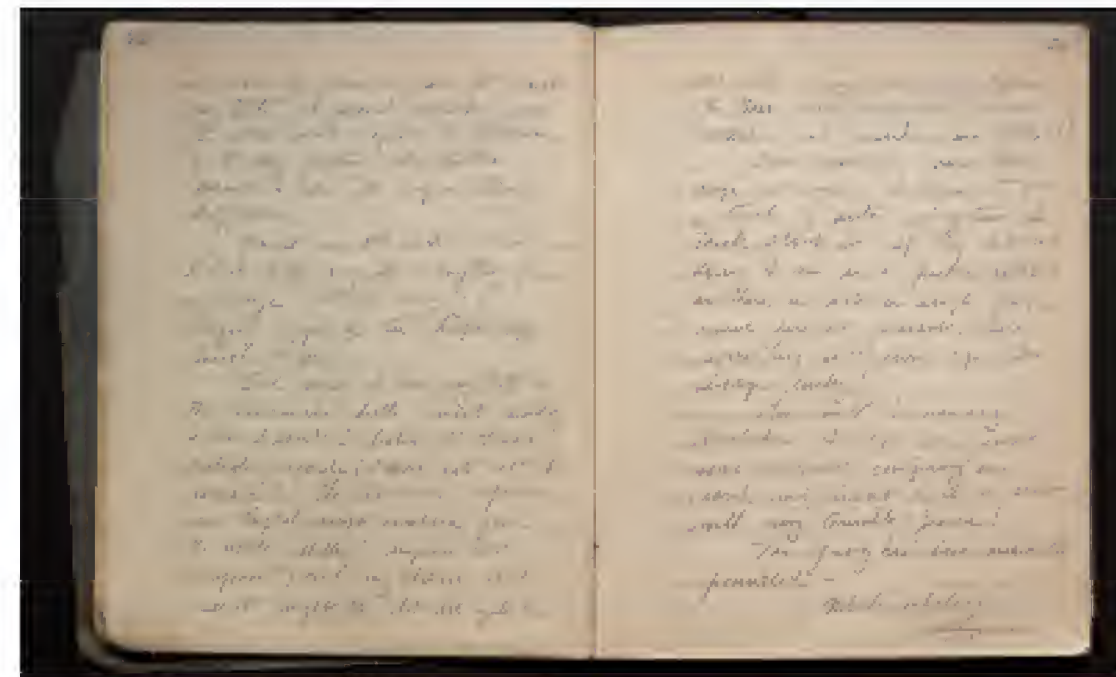
Our canoe is now three days overdue -- I begin to get a touch of "ants" every time I think about it. If they let me down I am in a pickle indeed as there is not a single large canoe here at present. But, something will turn up -- I'm always lucky!

You must be nearing Honolulu. I hope you found some congenial company on board and didn't draw a seat with any "Grumble-Groves"!

The grog has been musically pounded --

Mlula mlalava!
Harry

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Later --
Just a postscript to let you know that it is raining like hell -- God damn it!

H.

Namuka
July 6th
Dear Ed --

Climbed over the limestone today for a total of over 12,000 paces -- and a lot of it short shots. I've just finished plotting & the map is beginning to look like something. Am afraid, however, that I shall not be able to map a boundary between the basal, bedded form ls. & the reef ls. above -- exposures over most the interior are not satisfactory. But we shall see. If I am held up long enough here I'll have every outcrop

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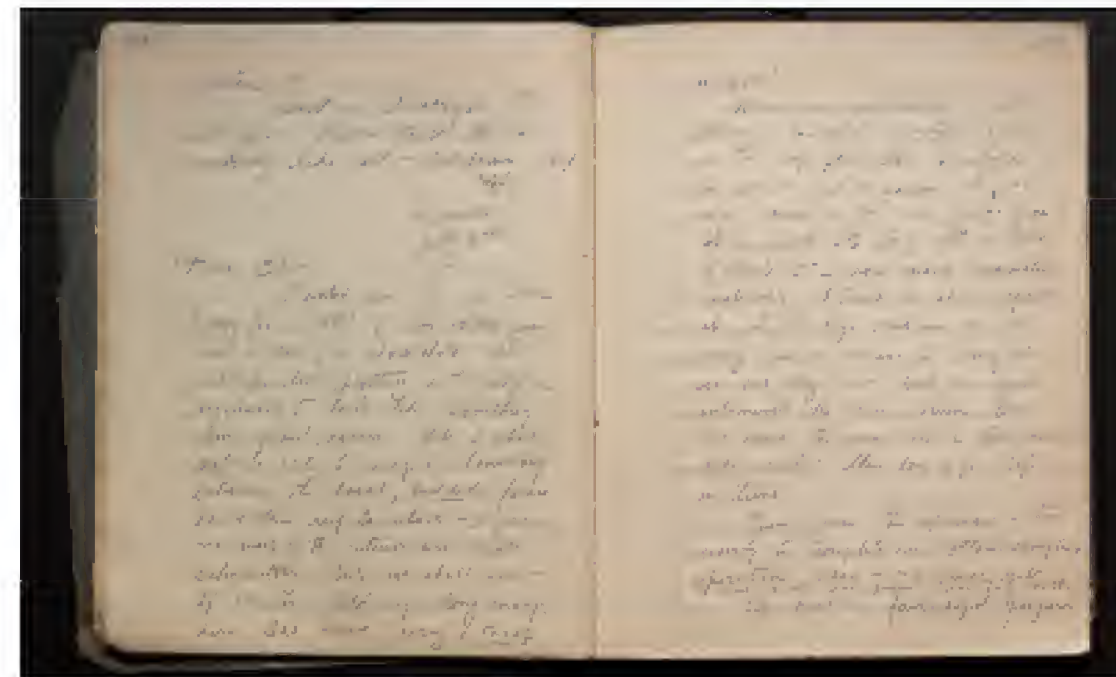
mapped!

Made an interesting find today -- an old cannon lying on the reef flat close to shore. I wonder what sailing ship or old man-o-war it came from? It is almost 3 1/2' long with a bore of about 5" -- now much encrusted naturally. I think I shall report it to the Fiji Museum as they may have a chance to bring it in one day. -- Willy has just interviewed the old natives. One has heard the yarn that a two-master was wrecked there long ago -- before his time.

Rain again this afternoon & too windy to comply our bottom-sampling operations. Also -- no canoe yet! A canoe arrived from Ongeo -- bound for Mothe.

We have a fair-sized yanjona

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crowd tonight & while I worked on the map Willy delivered an illustrated lecture on "Tuki-vatu Agassiz".

Our sixth chicken arrived today! Am afraid I'm eating too much again!

This afternoon the Chinaman invited me in for a smoke after my bath & later I presented him with a corn-cob pipe. He wanted to pay for it & was all Chinese smiles when I convinced him it was a present!

Ho-hum! - time to finish the grog & stretch out on my creaking bed of slats.

Harry

P.S.

Tell Ruth that if she ever invites Jane & Harry to dinner

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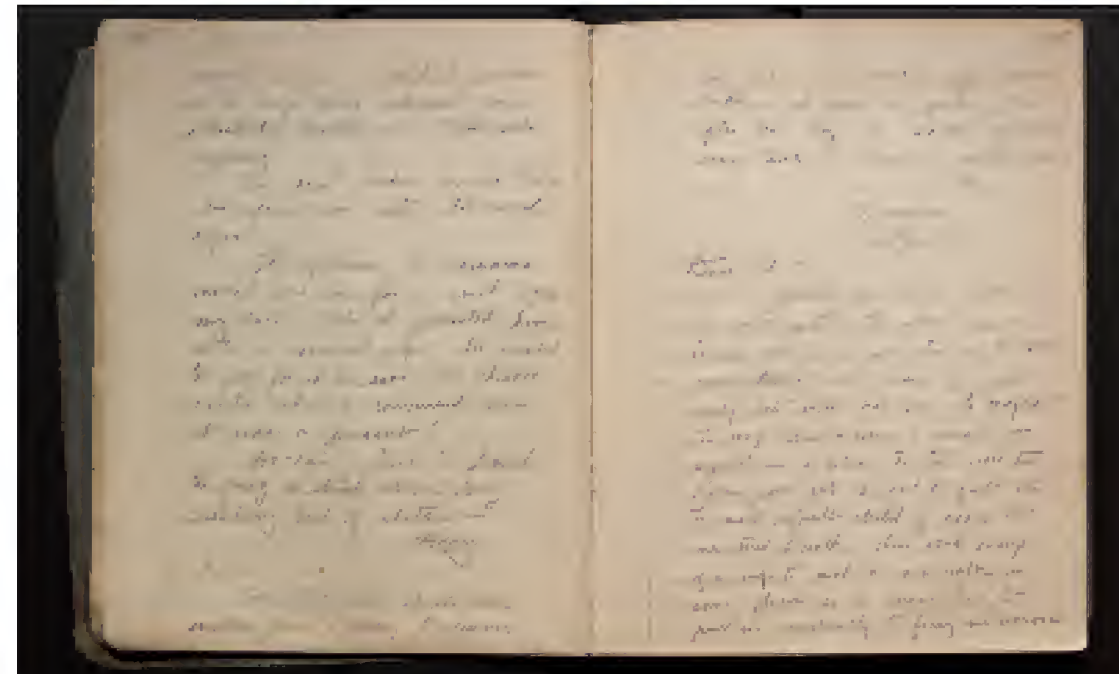
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this fall she must not serve chicken. I have a feeling that after this trip I shall shudder every time I hear a rooster crow!

H.

Namuka,
July 7th
Dear Ed -

Yesterday we left a canoe on the western side of the island so as to be all set for a good start on the NW coast today. We hiked off bright & early but were not able to complete the map. Wind & wave & current were against us & when the tide was two hours past ebb I had to quit. Its the most difficult stretch of coast I've ever tried to walk. There isn't enough of a nip to make a cat-walk in some places so the canoe had to put in constantly to ferry me across



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the gaps. The cliff drops straight into blue water -- 4 or 5 fathoms in spots. Crawling on all-fours in that narrow limestone nip with the waves splashing in is not so much fun! As soon as the wind gets back the SE I'll try to finish. Only made 3000 paces of coastal traverse today but I made a N-S traverse across the island. Got some good algal & detrital limestones but I seem to have found the best fossils on my earlier visit. Am just about convinced that the N coast is faulted -- can't explain the unusual features any other way. An incipient algal reef (5 - 15' wide) fringes the cliff in a few places -- much like the fault coast on Wangava & Kambara. Have found bedded

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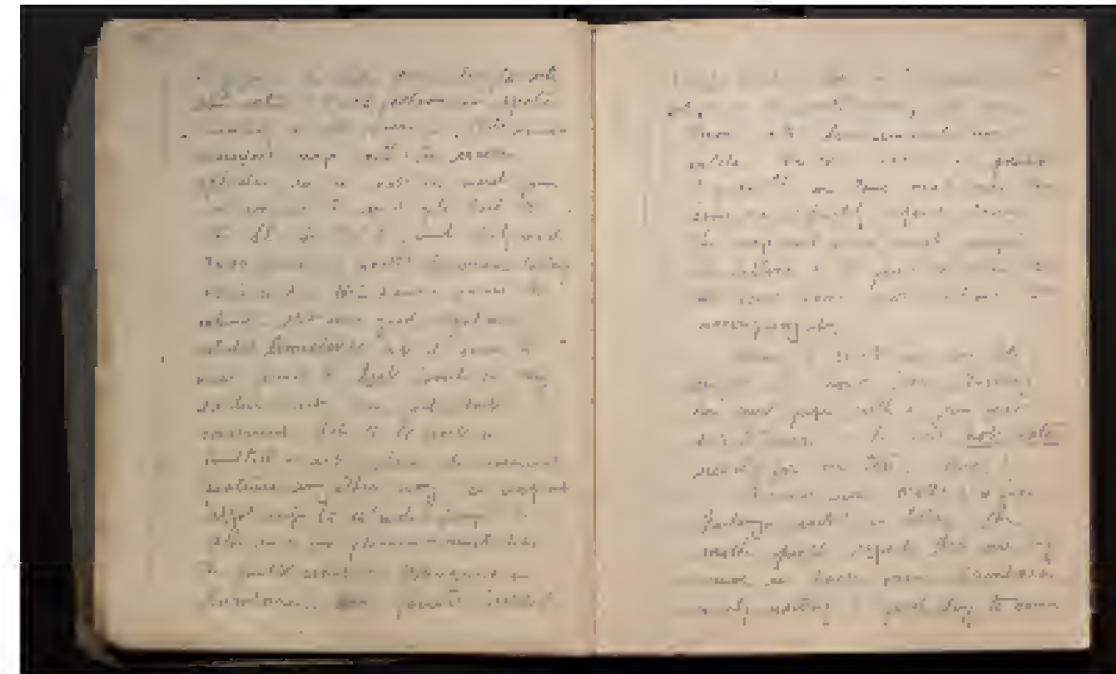
(well bedded) ls. on the north coast and, on the south coast, they are thrown into low undulations or folds. No coral heads in position of growth in the basal beds, though some are definitely upside down. The map won't show much except the outline & the fossil locations but I'll have some cross-sections to accompany it.

[[there is a line and an asterisk next to this paragraph, indicating some additional notes somewhere else?]]

When I went for my bath tonight the Chow was smoking his new pipe with a grin from ear to ear! -- he had hot water ready for me too! Nice!

A canoe from Mothe & 6 from Fulanya sailed in today. The Mothe people sport that our big canoe is back from Kambara & only waiting a good day to come

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along. That's good news but, my God, the skipper must be a cautious fellow! Some drizzle & a bit of wind today but if the small Fulanya canoe could sail against it I should think the big one could slip over from Mothe! I guess they wanted Sunday at home!

Can you hear the musical clang of the yangona stone? That's the way I like to have it made -- damn these silent & unsanitary tree logs!

Today finishes my first 2 weeks & in that time I've worked on 4 islands -- Lakimba, Mothe, Karoni & Namuka. I hope I'll be able to keep moving! the next two weeks should bring Yangosa',

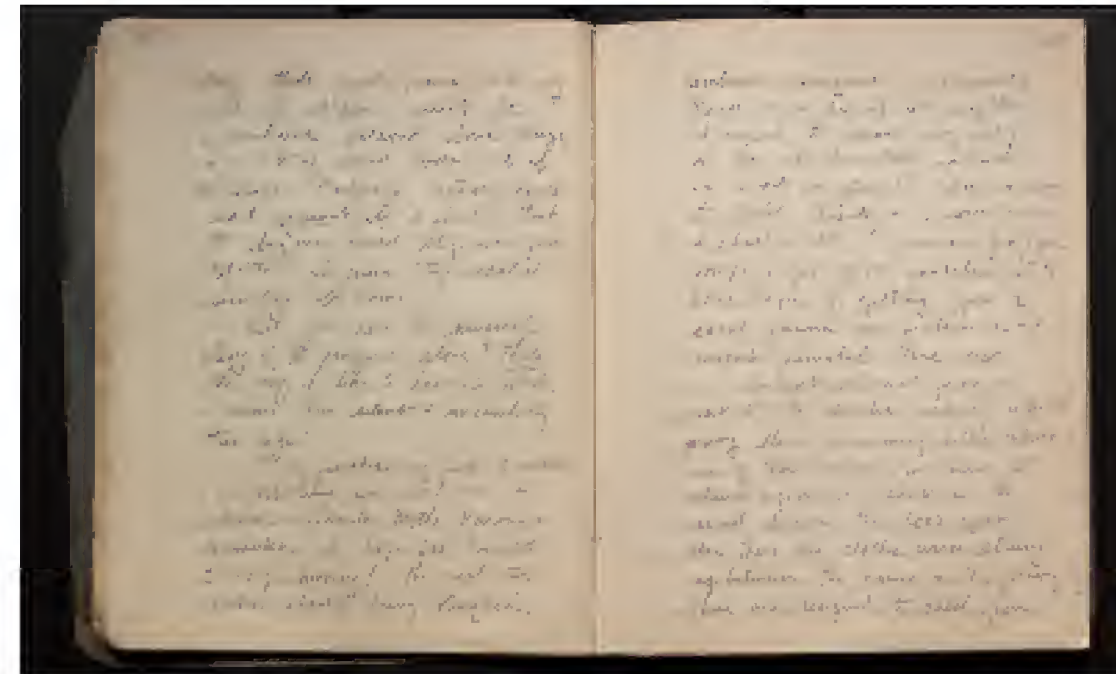
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Kambara, Wangava & Marambo. Read on & see if I'm right! I expect to make my sops on these all-limestone islands as short as possible. I'm anxious to tackle Oniata & Naian when I shall be able to make geologic maps & get good fossils. Still have hopes of getting you a coral fauna on Lakimba -- I haven't finished there yet.

I've just returned from a visit to the Mbubi cockroach-infested privy. Its a charming little mbure -- one of these where you have to stand up on the seat & the wind blows the door open! Also there are clothes wires strung up between the house & the privy. they are designed to catch you

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under the chin at night but as I am a short fellow they only hit the top of my head!

Willy is having a little lali & sticks made for me here. Jane & I shall use them this winter in summoning our friends the Hoffmusters to dinner! Am also having coconut cups made. Have already been presented with a new yangona strainer so prepare for the "Fiji party"! I'll bring a bag of yangona from Suva. I hope Jane likes yangona as well as I do -- but that's asking quite a bit of even so grand a bride as Jane, isn't it?

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But I shall not heat it 20 minutes!

[[end of margin notes]]

Willy is looking forward

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to "our trip to Vitilun to see those cannibals!" -- So am I! But that's some time ahead yet & it doesn't do to think too much about it. Thank God there is plenty of work or I surely would get ants!

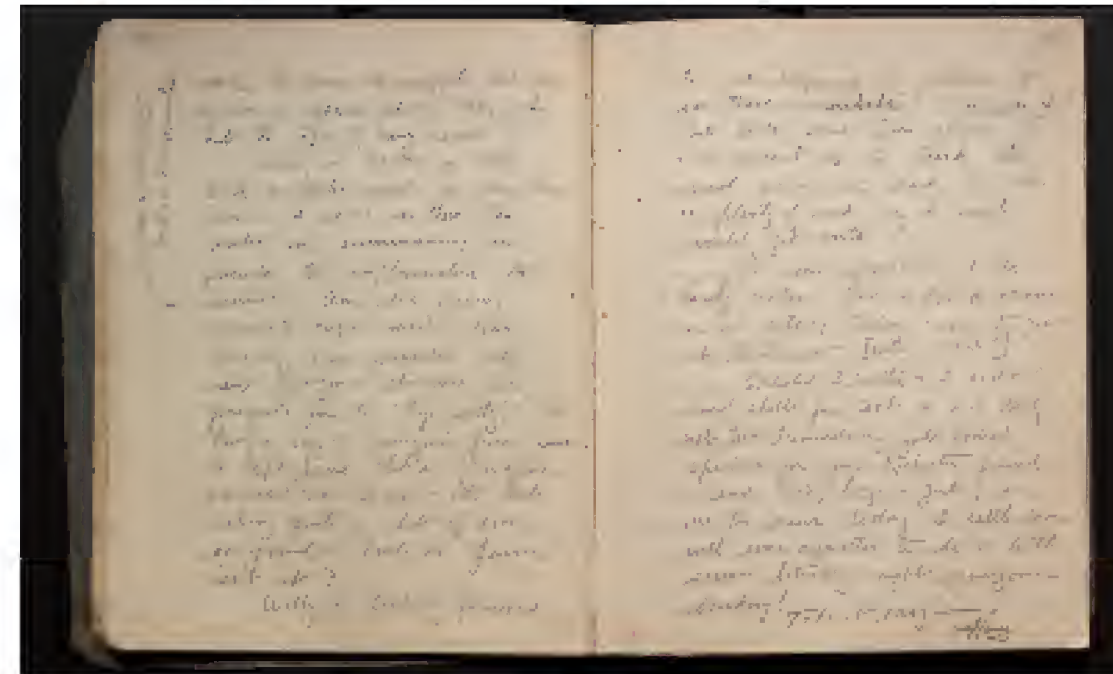
For your consolation I do hereby confess that I left a hammer on an outcrop today! -- aim to get it tomorrow. [Later -- got it!]

Collected 3 bottles & 2 sacks of land shells for Cooke & had Willy nab two tremendous fat-bodied spiders for your Rochester friend.

-- And that, boys & girls, is all the news today. I will settle down with some cigarettes to do a little serious Saturday-night yangona drinking.

Take it easy --
Harry

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Namuka
Sunday July 8th
Dear Ed --

No rain today (for once!) but a high irregular wind. Too windy for the Fulanga canoe to continue to Mothe

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- then am out to get a lot of food & stuff for planting. [[end insertion]]

& so, of course, our canoe didn't come from Mothe. I corrupted the churchy morals of Willy's cousin ("Willy No. 2") ^[[with a bonus!]] and spent the morning in the field.

During the afternoon I loafed deliciously -- reading & sleeping -- ending up with a swim in the lagoon and a hot bath at the Chow's.

My reading matter is now exhausted (Nat. Geog, Reader's Digest & 2 books). This afternoon I read the Fiji Times Herald for Dec. 1933! -- the newspaper I brought for wrapping specimens! Played a game

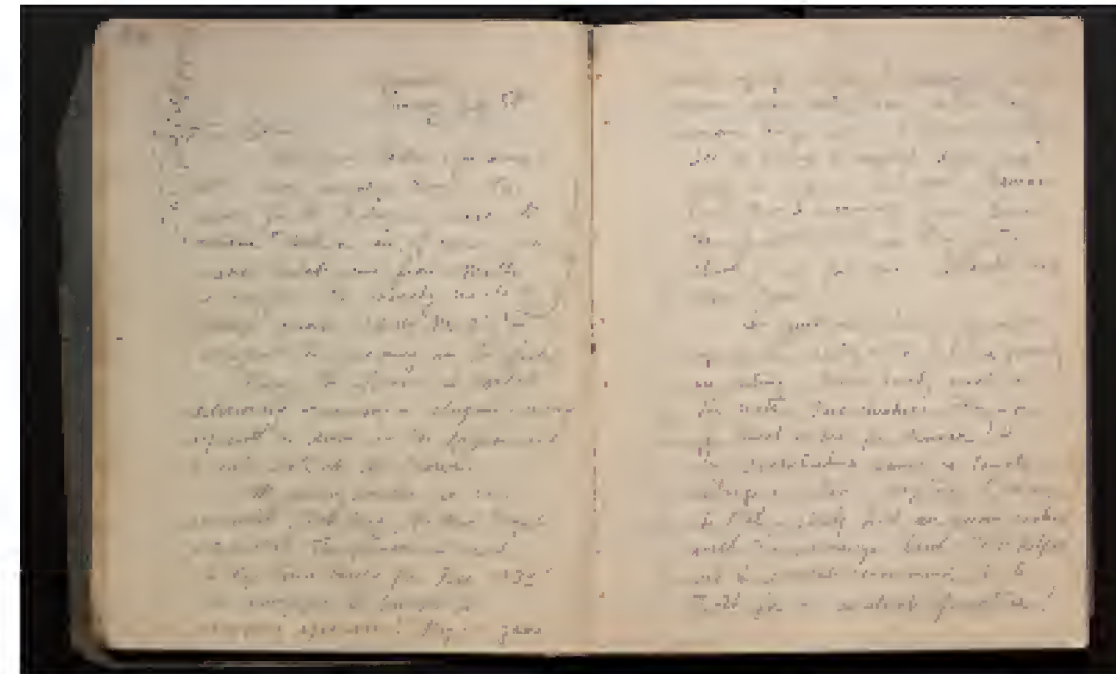
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with myself -- trying to remember what I was doing last Dec. when these various things were happening in Fiji! I'll be talking to myself before long! Willy is deep in a Lowell Thomas book that I borrowed from Eason. The only words that he has gotten stuck on so far are "Señorita" and "Mon Dieu"!

I'm just now having my second cup of tea. Willy and the Mbuli's family are eating a loud & hearty meal on the mats. Two chickens today -- one for lunch & one for dinner! I try Worcestershire sauce & tomato catsup on them -- anything to change the taste. Willy had an onion cooked with the evening's bird -- that helped but I wouldn't recommend it to Ruth for a constant practice!

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Much singing & lali beating today! -- and (St. Peter please note) I gave two shillings to the church.

I suppose you are visiting all over Honolulu today. I hope you will write me all the news -- a few pages -- say about 34!

I am developing a taste for chitons. When they are boiled just right (not too much & not too little) & then cooled they are delicious & not tough at all. They must also be well cleaned and that's an art!

Ah! -- the first "thump-clank-thump" of the yangona stone! I shall open a new tin of cigarettes & let my mind wander off into the early days of September -- less than two months hence --

Cheerio -- !
Harry

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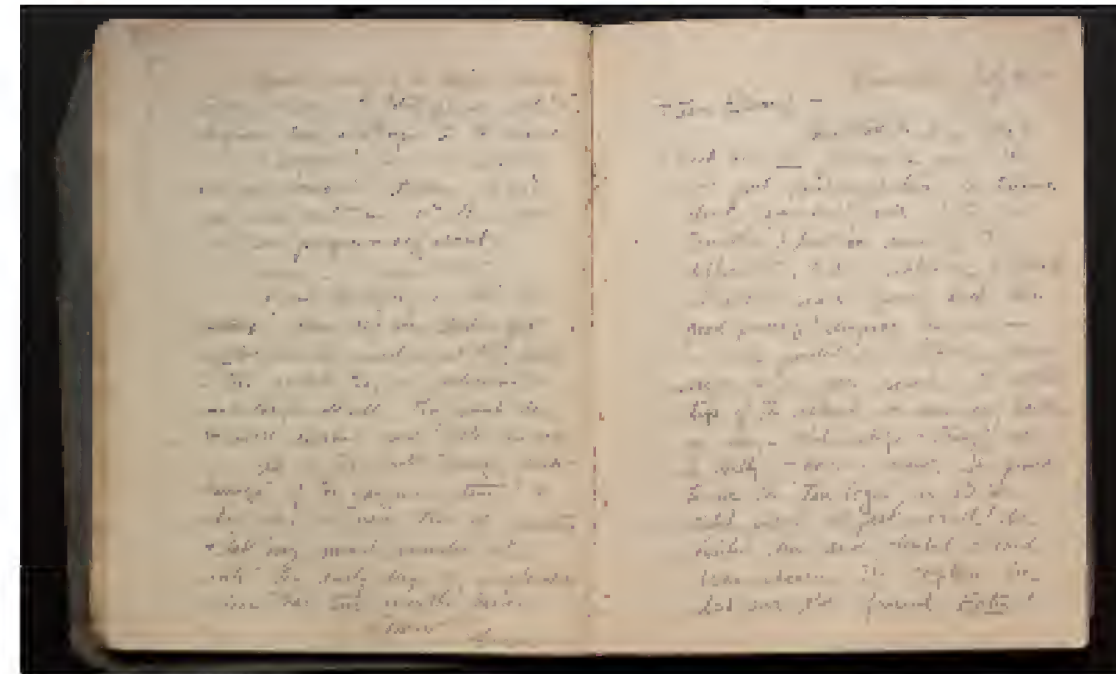
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Namuka July 9th
Dear Edward --

Completed the map today & "Thank God that pleasure is over!" I have just finished plotting. The traverse closed remarkably well (better than Tubutha') but in view of the difficulties I am inclined to think it was more good luck than good pacing! Anyway 'tis done --

We finished our traverse about noon & as we rounded the western tip of the island on our way back a large white ship -- strange even to Willy! -- hove in view. She proved to be the "Tin Toga", an 8-ton ketch about 100 feet overall! We hailed her and climbed aboard. Who should the captain be but our old friend Fotu!

[[end of page]]



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Remember ---? ↓ "Till darkness eventually hid it from view and everyone slept except Captain Fotu."

Yes, the same old weatherbeaten face and the same kind of a broad-rimmed rain hat!! We shook hands with a laugh! Also, in the crew, were two of the Tongan boys who carried the flag ashore on Falcon - both speaking excellent English. Also a boy who sailed with Beck & Bryan in the France. Also a young English girl (very pretty) returning from school in N.Z.

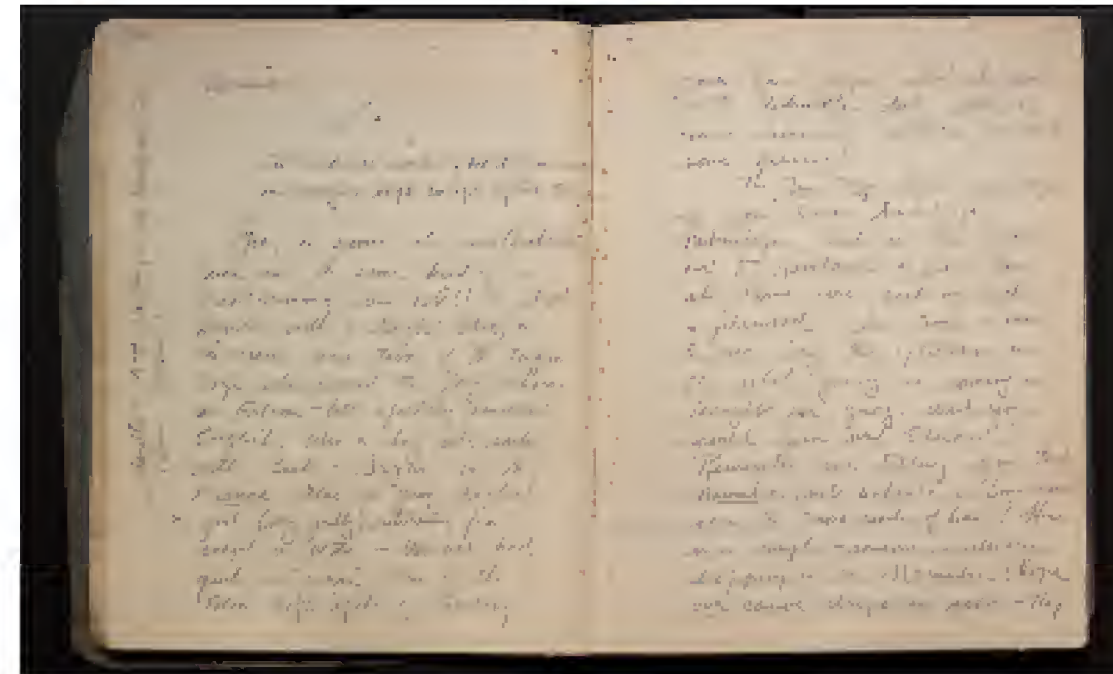
← → daughter of M-H storekeeper at Hanpar Gr. (Ann "Prodel") ←

- We all had quite a "yarn". One of the Falcon boys spoke of reading

→
←

37
your Ena? paper which he saw at the Nukuelofa Club. Willy, of course, discovered relatives and did some kissing!

The Tui Tonga started some days ago from Suva headed for Nukuelofa. Bad weather forced her to Kamlaxa & from there she came here seeking water & firewood. She came around to our bay this afternoon & the whole gang is coming in tonight for grog. Wish you could join us Edward! Remember me telling you that Namuka (not Lakemba or Lomaloma) was the "cross-roads of Lan"? Here is a sample - someone is always dropping in on Namuka! Hope our canoe drops in soon - they



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couldn't make it today - gray skies, strong wind, rotten visibility & rain part of the day. The Fulanga canoes are still here but the single Mothe canoe started bravely homeward at dawn.

I hear that no second party has landed on Falcon. The island is not yet completely washed away. Some months ago, says one of the Falcon boys, an eruption occurred near Haapai Group - built up a small cone which has since been washed away. I'll try & get more detailed information tonight.

I remarked to the Captain (thru an interpreter) that he hadn't changed a bit in 6 years. With equal truth (but less politeness!) he

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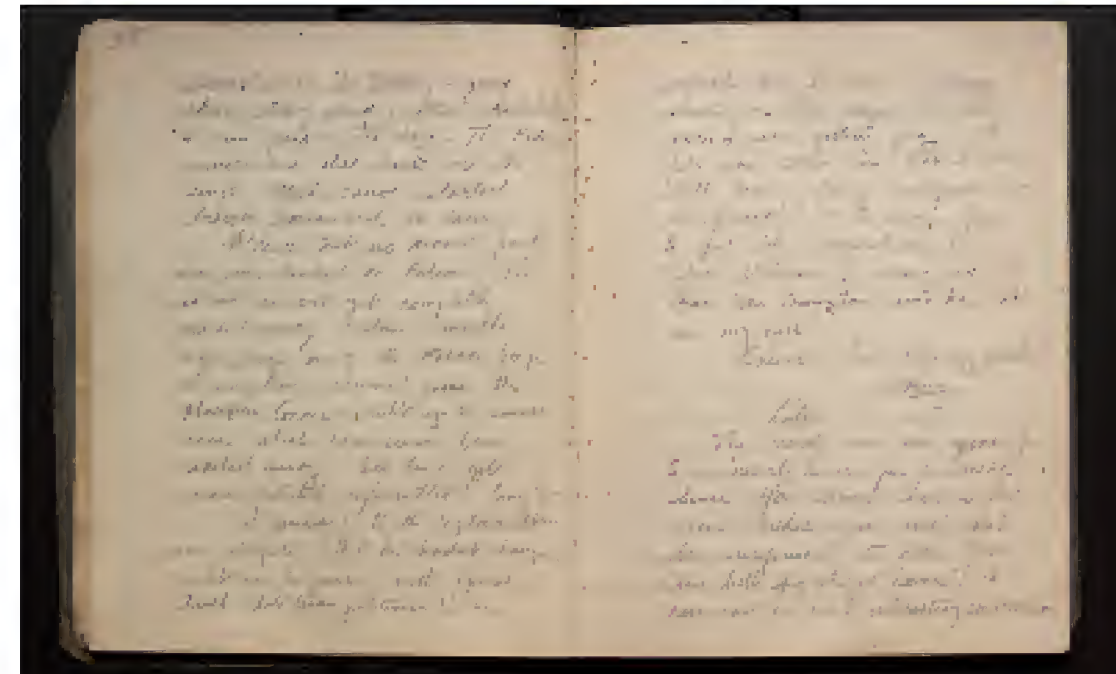
39

replied that I was a young man in those days but that now I was getting gray! I felt like telling him that I was still but a young bridegroom - but I refrained! - I should begin to feel like Manuel in the "Silver Stallion" if many more of these "Mr. Crompton remarks" fall on my ears!

Cheerio - here come my guests -
Harry

[[underline]] Later [[/underline]]

The crowd has now gone off to a nearby house for a meke. Since you know how I feel about mekes you will not be surprised to hear that "this little pig stayed home"! I have had a most interesting conversation



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Samuel Mafileo, one of the Tongans who carried the flag to Falcon. He is the engineer on the Tui Toga & his brother George (who sailed with Beck) is mate. Both, by the way, are relatives of the Queen of Toga - it was all explained at length to me but I'm still slightly bewildered! -- near as I can figure it they are 2nd or 3rd cousins.

Samuel is out of reading matter so I gave him a Geographic.

[[left margin, insertion]]

Also gave corncob pipe to Samuel & George & sent one out to Fotu.
[[/left margin]]

He promises to send us rock samples from some of the volcanic islands of Toga. He claims there are "soapstone" on certain of the Haapai islands (I doubt it - no?) & will send some of them too. He located

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the recent eruption as follows

[[image: map of landmarks]]

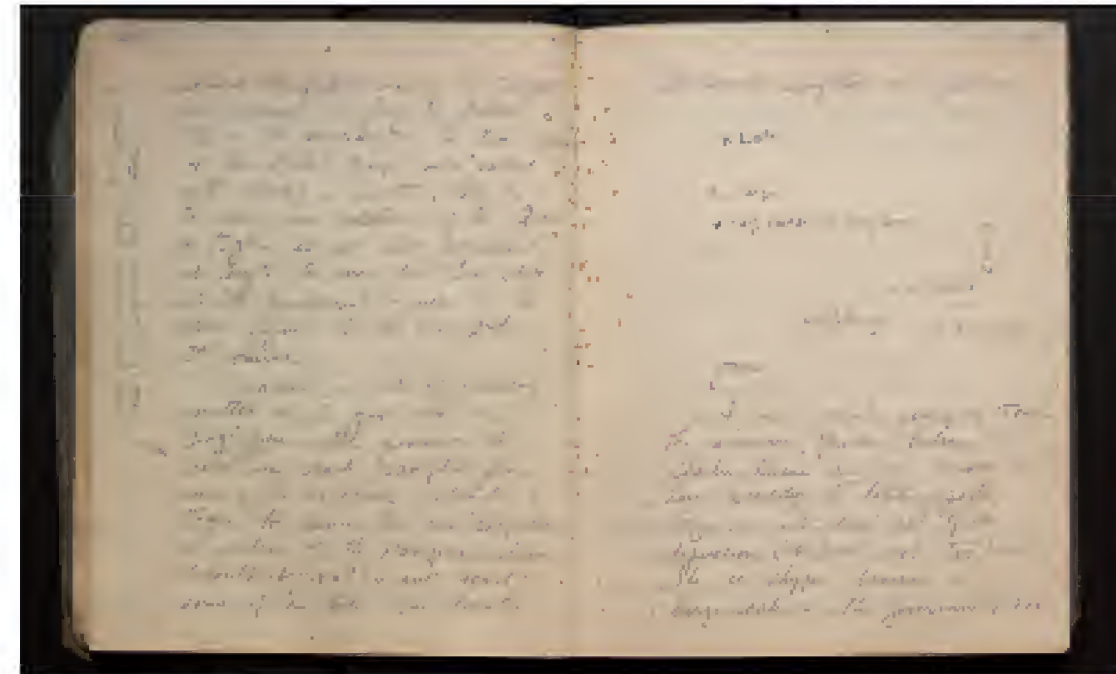
x Late
x reef
* reef (scene of eruption)

[[upwards arrow]] N

x Lighthouse
x Ofolanya
X Hanpai

Tofua [[downward arrow]]

I heard much gossip of Tongans the Johannsun, Powells, Nielsin, & Charlie Hama are all thriving on Eua according to latest reports. Tonga is not hard hit by the depression (at least not too hard). She is shipping bananas on a large scale & the government has



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a surplus of £10,000 -- which is 4,000 more than they had several years ago.

Tugi still uses the lighter I gave him & is always asking someone to fill it for him!

Fisher of the B-M has recently been to Nukualofa & Eua - doing some sort of writing & incidentally collecting land shells.

Spencer has gone to N.Z. Kosi, who was mate on the Fetunaho when we went to Falcon, was also here this evening.

[[left margin, insertion]] [[arrow]]
The Fetunaho is temporarily in the slip for repairs.
[[/left margin]]

The Tui Toga is really a fine boat with good accommodations -- First class passage Suva to Nukualofa is £5-0-0; 2nd class £2-15-0; deck passage £1-0-0. I wish we could have taken her! Old

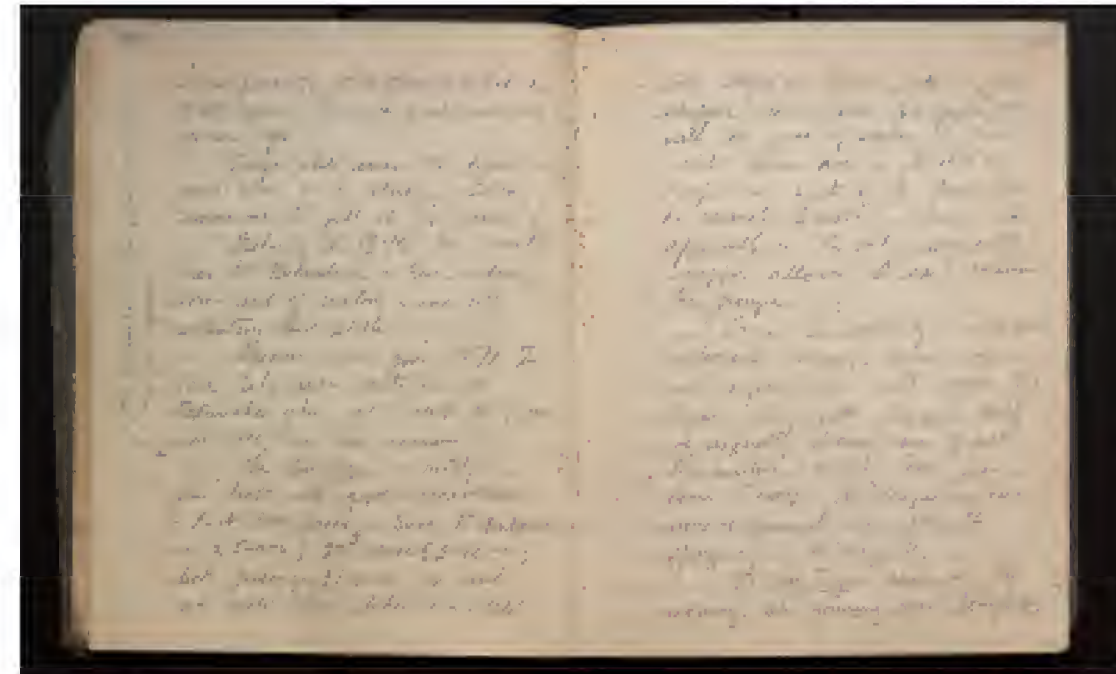
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Fotu stayed on board like a good skipper. He is now 60 years old with 40 years of sailing to his credit. Never has he touched a reef - in spite of the fact that he cannot shoot the sun! He apparently is the only "uneducated" skipper allowed to sail between the groynes.

Tongan is certainly a soft and melodious language when compared with Fijian - even with Lanan. No Fijian being spoken tonight. Willy is apparently taking care of all the visitors - leading them from home to home. He drops in here now & again to see how the yangona is holding out.

The Tui Toga sails in the morning. Its pouring rain tonight.



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I've worked myself out of a job but if its a fair day [^] tomorrow I'll examine some additional cliff sections. If it could only clear so that canoe could come over! Bring on the "Ladd luck"!

Its growing late now but the meke is still being beaten out with great vigor - even the rain on the roof can't drown it out! I'm left with the Turanga-ni-Koro & two other seasoned yangana drinkers. By the way, I've finally discovered how to drink the grog - make it strong (like a thick soup!) & drink small mbilos - one smokes with delight & retires to sleep! Its a pity (for your sake) that I didn't discover this sooner!

The little flies are a pest

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again tonight - you probably will find several pressed between these pages. I can change slightly our Tuvutha jingle -

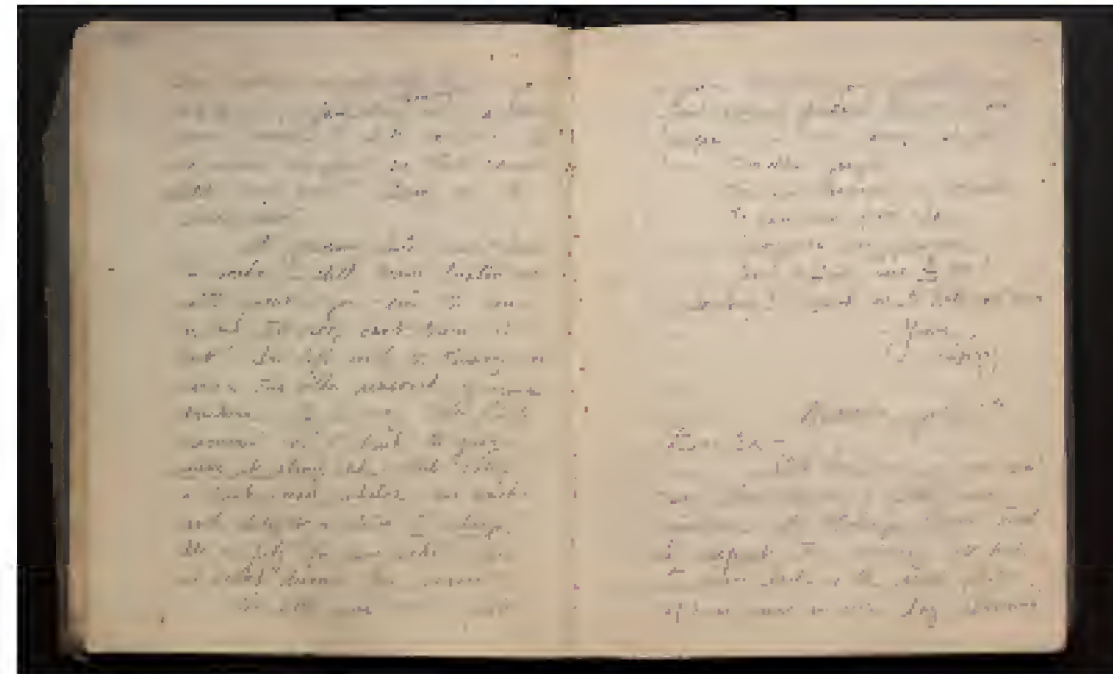
"The rain descends in torrents
The flies come from afar.
Yangona's being pounded
And, by God, here I are!

So long, Ed. Best love to Ruth and sons.

Yours,
Harry

Namuka, July 10th
Dear Ed -

Still here, as you can see! - and slim chances of getting away tomorrow. The Fulanga canoe tried to depart this morning but had to turn back & the whole fleet of 6 is now in our bay. Previously



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3 were anchored around at Matandolo on the north coast but the stiff NE wind drove them around here.

I thought to try & hire two of the Fulanga canoes to take us to Kamlara but after talking it over with Willie we have decided to wait a bit longer - sending a hurry-up message to Mothe & the Fulanga boys. Willie figures the weather is the only thing that is keeping the big canoe in Mothe. I, of course, figure the captain is "chicken-hearted" (Oh pardon me, Mr. Ferris, I didn't know you were here!")

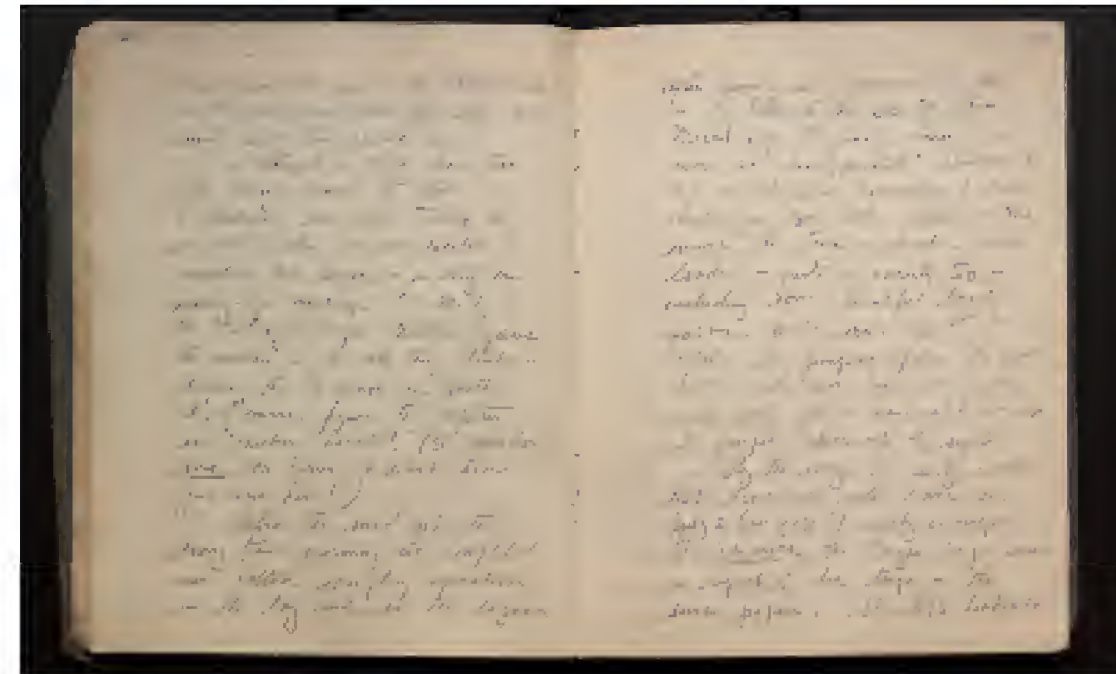
Before the wind got too strong this morning we completed our bottom sampling operations in the bay and in the lagoon.

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After lunch we examine the lss. in the hills to the SE of town. Didn't hope to find much & so was not disappointed. However, I did collect some hundreds of land shells for Doc Cooke - after all these rains the trees & shrubs were loaded - quite a variety, too - including some beautiful banded forms. Made an effort to catch a big jumping spider (the biggest I have ever seen) but before Willy could get a handkerchief over it it jumped clear out of sight!

By the way, the dirty weather that drove us into Komo on July 2 (see page 9) nearly swamped the Adimoce. The Tongan boys saw a report of her trip in the Suva paper. She left Lakemba



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when we did - headed for Suva with a load of tax copra from Tumlou & with Mrs. Stewart & her daughter as passengers. Things got so bad that they had to throw all the deck load of copra overboard - and it was not insured, either. It must have been bad indeed for she only had 250 sacks & her load is 300. This in the dry season when the gentle Trades prevail! You are in for a lot of weather talk if you ever finish this book, Ed! I can see that right now!

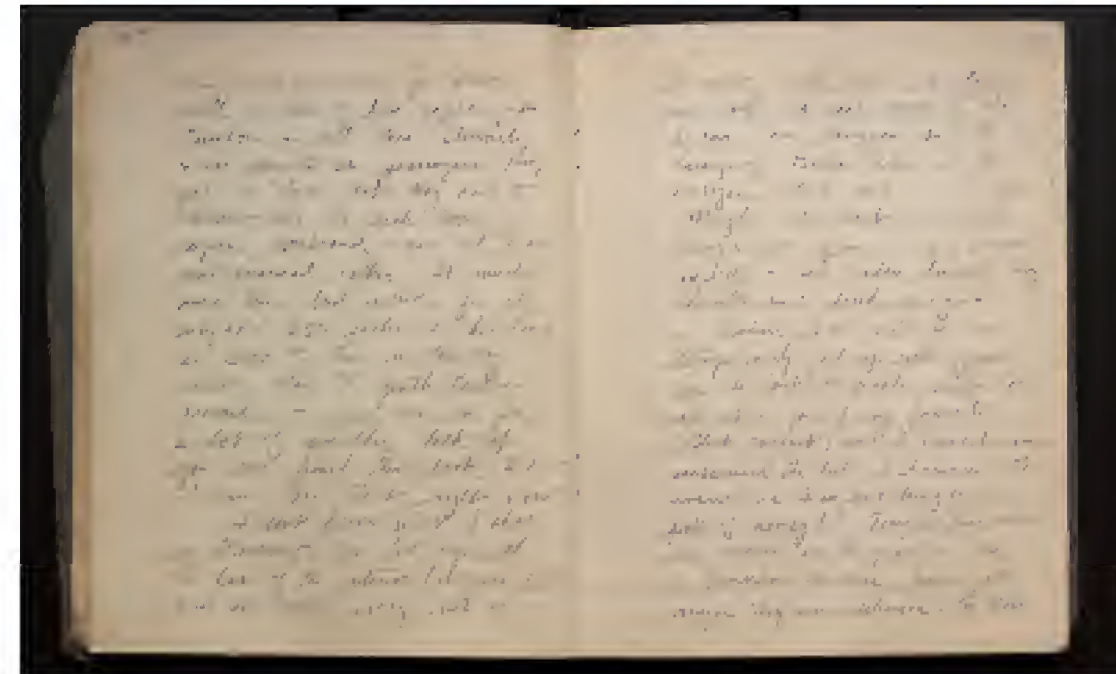
I don't know what I shall do tomorrow. I'm fed up with the lss. of the interior (it gives little and I've covered every inch of

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the coast. It sure is tough here with no real work to do. I can see Yangasa and the lumps of Dalai Olvi on the horizon - lots of work in both places! Maybe I'll start and read Davis over again - no! Heaven forbid! I'd rather twiddle my thumbs and drink yangona!

Believe it or not I am temporarily fed up with jam. For the last 4 meals Willie has set out a jar of my favorite (Black currant) and I haven't even unscrewed the lid! (Sh-u-r! the answer is I am working on a pot of honey!) Tonight there was no chicken so I opened a tin of Finnan Haddies. Served with vinegar they were delicious. The other



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day they proudly brought in some baked corn-on-the-cob. It looked nice & I rubbed my hands in anticipation but ...! If you want to know what it was like try to eat an ear of unpopped pop-corn! I risked my teeth during a bite or two for politeness sake!

Willy & I are alone tonight. He has made me some strong grog & we have been having a long conversation - with me doing most of the talking! (Similar, I suspect, to your after-lunch-saluka conversations of Exploring Island days!) Willy is now deep in a National Geographic.

[[wavy line]] Grog unconformity [[wavy line]]

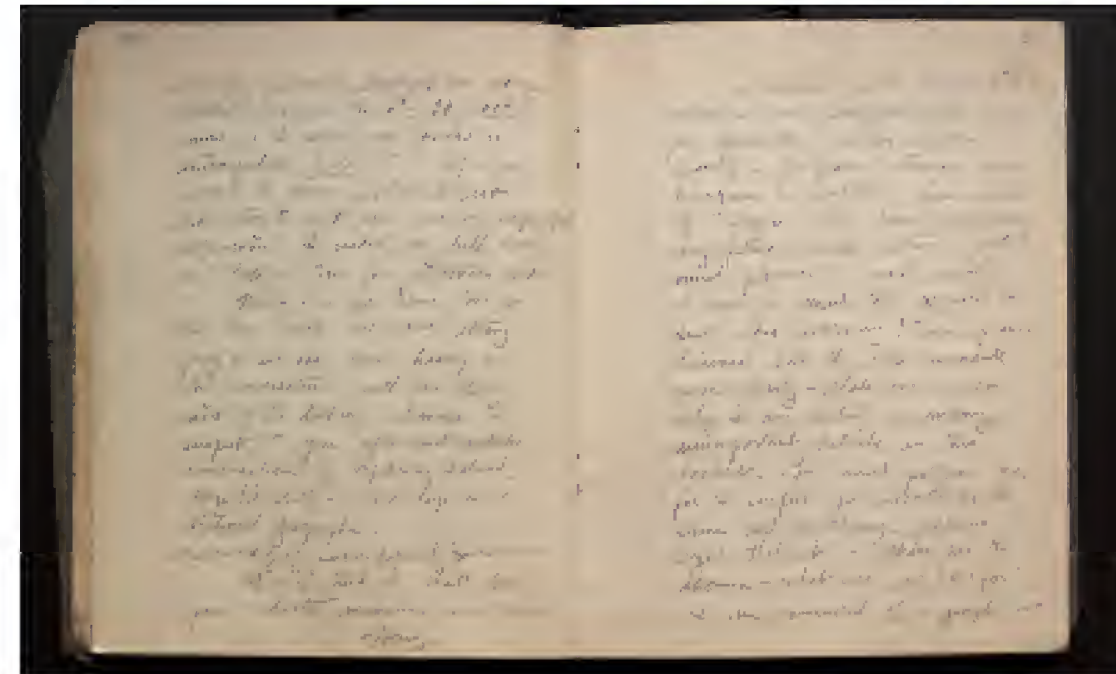
Now I think I shall leave you - haste mañana - in la noche.

Harry.

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Later - its now 10²⁵ P.M. which is an ungodly late hour for Namuka! Willy snores quietly on the floor - turning now & again to mutter a few words of Tongan. I've been re-reading my future bride's letters - with much pleasure! - and wishing I had the mail that arrived in Suva this morning! Time passes, Edward, but the idle moments pass slowly - that's one reason why I am writing so many unimportant details in this booklet. You must forgive me for I suspect you would do the same did we change places. Aye! Thats it! - "Where are the women - what are we here for"! I am reminded of a jingle we



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used to sing in Weller's camp -- to the tune of "Halleluyah, I'm a bum"
"Oh why don't you work
like the other folks do?

- How the hell can I work
When there's no work to do!

Well, there is a bit of sleeping to be done. May I have dreams of calm
seas, sunshine, - and Yangasa'!

H.

Namuka, July 11th

Dear John Edward -

We shall now all rise and sing the song beginning -

"Just another day - y -

- wasted away - !

Awoke this morning to a dead calm and ate my tin of salmon

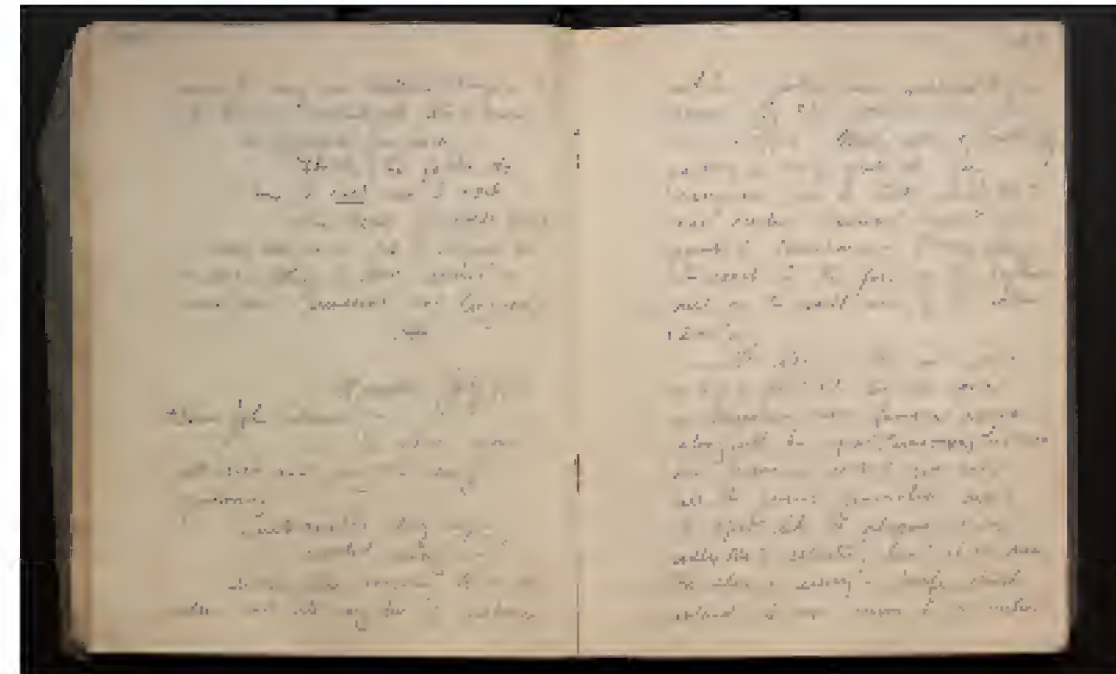
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while a gentle rain fell straight down. By 8³⁰ the rain had stopped. Willy was optimistically packing a
box of grub, etc. for Yangasa' so I took Willy No. 2 & we headed
westward across the point to Namlan & thence along the coast to the
foot of the highest hill on the south side of the island (240').

The story is that in a cave on top of this hill lie the bones of Namuka's
most famous warrior - along with his spear (Tavaiongea). The old man
has become sort of god and all the present generation avoid the spot
like the plague. I left Willy No. 2 collecting land shells near the shore &
using a knife, struck inland. I soon came to a vertical



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cliff - really vertical. I cut along the top of the talus for a long way but could find no way up so at last I tried the root-route. Succeeded in getting up to the 190 foot level & above me was only about 10 feet more of actual cliff but there I was stopped. Getting down was naturally much harder than getting up & my arms got so tired hanging on to those banyan roots that I contemplated the possibility of doing a King Albert! - but nothing like that is going to happen to me this trip!

So the old warrior still rests in his stronghold! The rocks encountered were pretty poor but I did get orbitoids higher than I have gotten them previously.

We also got 10 bottles of land shells and some spiders. We have

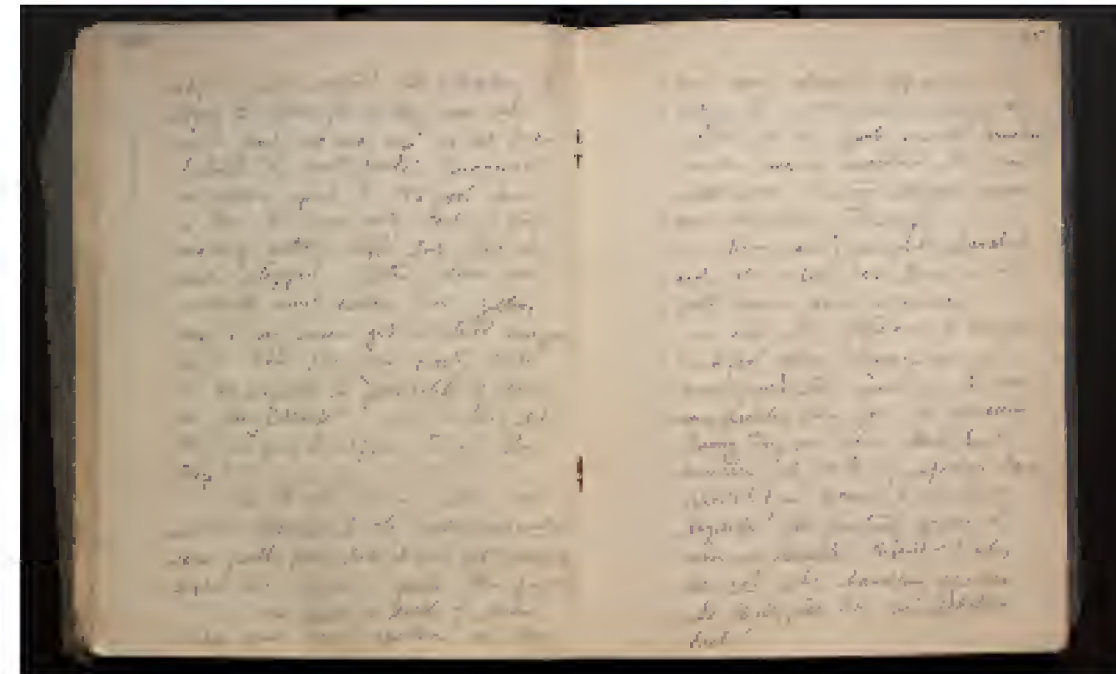
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had heavy showers off an on all day. The worst hit us along the coast so we just squatted smoking in the nip & watched the rain beat down the tiny lagoon waves and blot out the reef.

Home early completely drenched and cold - but hot tea & a hot bath have done wonders.

Late this afternoon I caught a 2 foot green lizard in a bread fruit tree next to the house. I've pickled him for the museum. Funny thing is that Willy (who handles all sorts of spiders bare-handed) is scared to death of lizards! He positively groaned when I handled the beast - I who do not like handling spiders! So Willy, too, has an Achilles heel!



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Its now growing dark and pouring rain. The Mluli has paid a visit (to his own house!) asking for grog. He claims to like strong grog but after one mbilo of my special brew he had to start adding water - which of course pleased me to no end!

The Fulanga canoes set out in spite of the lack of wind - three men skulking in each canoe. its some 20 miles to Mothe so I don't envy them. They carry a message from us to the "chicken-hearted captain"!

Willy has rigged up a set of drain troughs & is rapidly filling our Yangasa drum with fresh water from the tin roof of our house - that boy is certainly a great one! I too shall give him

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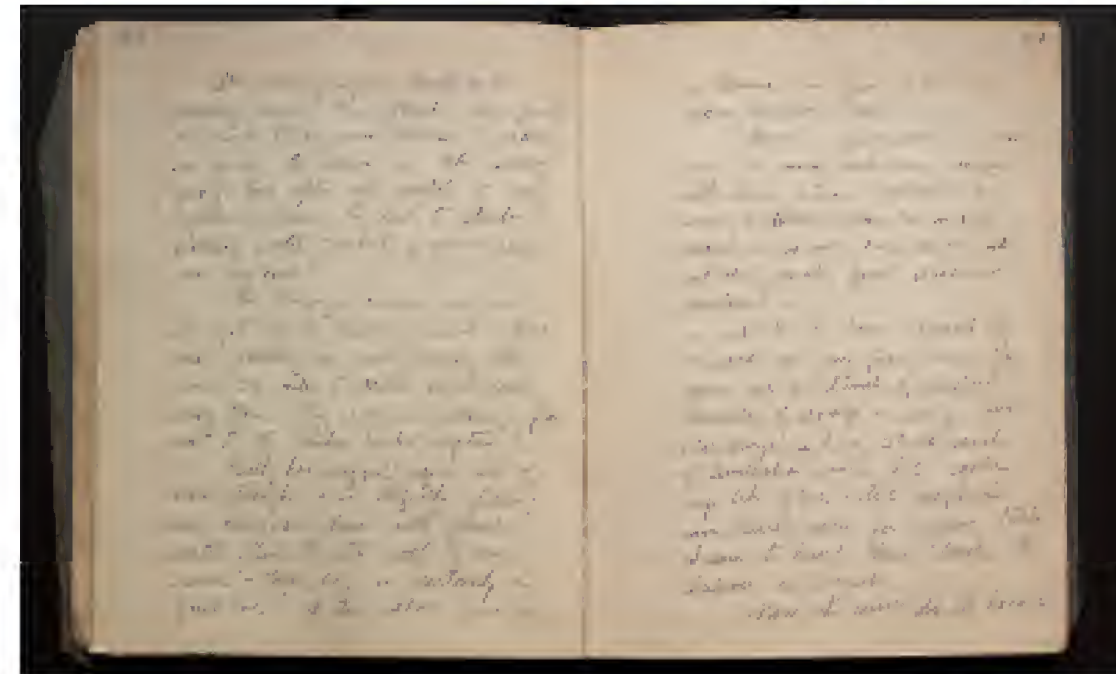
57

a bonus as you did - he does deserve it!

Found a spot along the coast where the mossy rocks are covered with large forams - collected a sack of them. When the mat of weed and forams are dried it should make good classroom material.

M-H in Suva didn't do so well on my food order. They gave me a bunch of bastard brands of soup in large tins (too large) and a 50 lb sack of Australian rice that cooks up like glue - too soft, I am sure, even for your teeth. I aim to hand them back the balance in August.

Now I must do the honors



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on the floor with the Mbuli. See you later.

Harry

Later -

Dinner is now a thing of the past - I'm sipping my tea along with a Craven A. What did we have tonight? Well, Ed, I'll tell you! First Willy brought in a couple of Martini cocktails - ice cold! On a silver tray next to the cocktails were thin slices of brown toast with a thick spread of Russian caviar - but I can't go on, Ed! This is Tuvutha' torture!

And now I'll tell you about the weather prospects for tomorrow - they are LOUSY!

I am surrounded by hundreds

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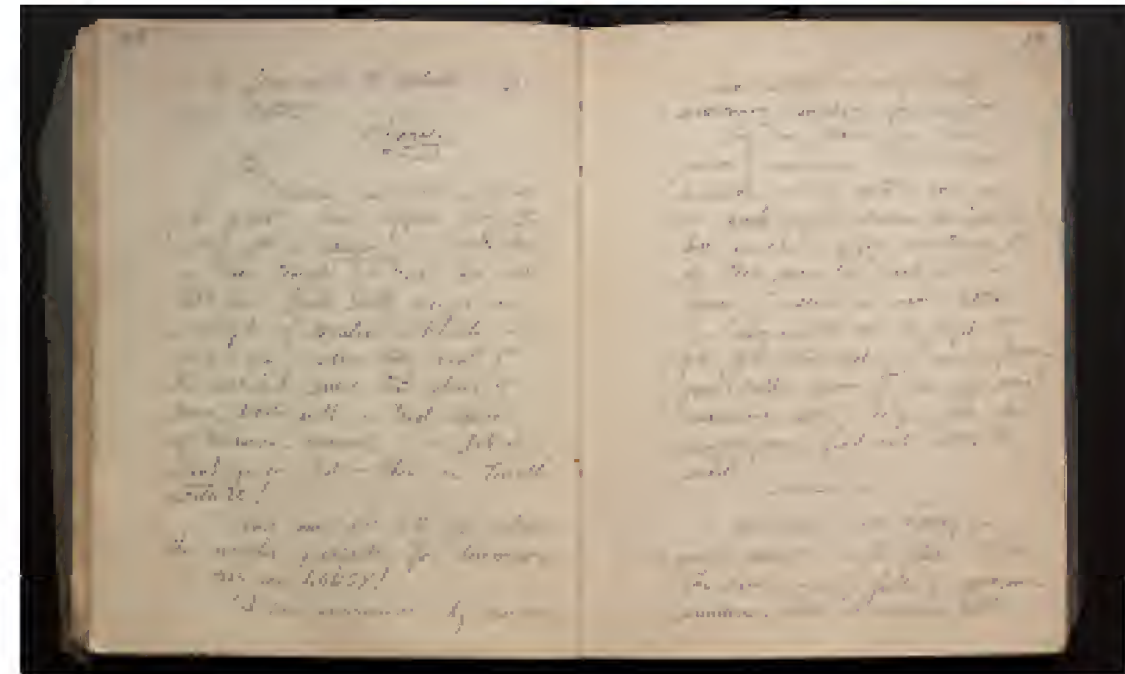
of land shells - all busily drowning themselves for science!

By the time you have probably concluded that I have a bad case of ants - and you are quite right! Damn the inaction! I'm so hard up for something to do that even the "Pooh-Bah" is going to receive a nice letter!

Why in hell did I forget to get that other deck of cards from you? (Mothe seems to have kept mine). Solitaire might help a bit - I might even find out about the canoe!

[[line]]

We have been having a great session on the floor tonight. The house is half full of yangona drinkers. But the evening now



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grows old and a boy is busy pounding up the kosa kosa. I'll help drink that & then to bed.

We be discouraged? After all the canoe may come tomorrow!

Cheerio --
H.

Namuk, July 12th
Dear Ed --

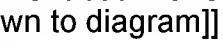
Rain in the morning and showers off & on all afternoon. A moderate SE wind & fair visibility but the captain -- that chicken-hearted bastard! -- didn't venture out of Mothe! Anyway the skies are clearing now so I have hopes for tomorrow.

I put on the old boots and sallied forth after lunch -- between (& during) showers. Hiked across to the north coast -- cracked the limestone & collected landshells but

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found nothing to write home about.

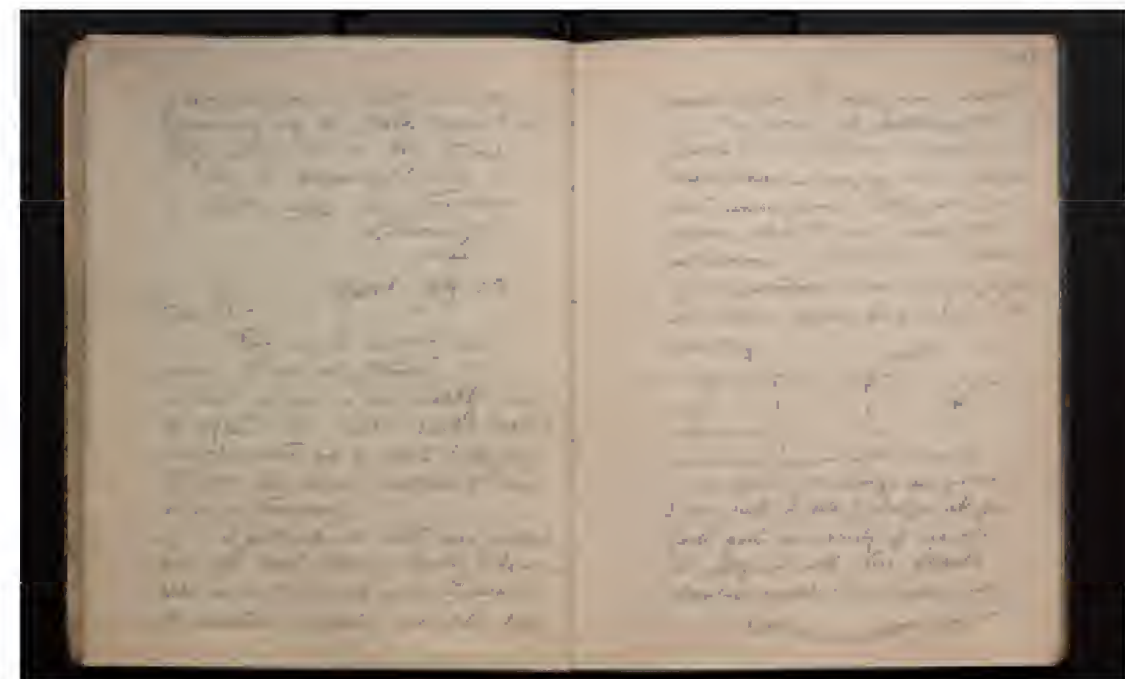
The Chow & I become fast friends! He gave me a concert this afternoon -- singing as he played his "Chinese piano". Any port in a storm -- but I still don't call it music! He told me the name of the instrument but I have forgotten it. Its a queer thing shaped like this 

[[diagram needs inserted]]

A total of 21 strings in groups of 3 and with 2 sets of bridges it gives forth quite a variety of sounds! He plays it with two flexible bamboo mallets -- one for each hand.

 [[arrow drawn to illustration of mallet]]

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It gives clear tinkly little notes & though playing rapidly he manages to keep up with his voice. I feel sorry for the poor Chow -- after 10 days here I can realize how lonely a job he has. I gave him some pipe cleaners today & he was much pleased.

The Mbuli, his wife and one of the cats have been very ill from eating poison fish but even the cat is now recovering. The fish gave it a sort of paralysis of the hind quarters and it staggered around as though intoxicated. It still falls down now and then but not as much as it did when I first arrived here.

Willy has made the "pea soup" early tonight to keep me from getting ants. I'm having a bit now as

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darkness comes on. He has just been in to find out what I want for supper. After much deliberation we have decided on corned beef.

Oh yes I shaved today! And now that's all the news! If I think of anything else I'll write you after supper!

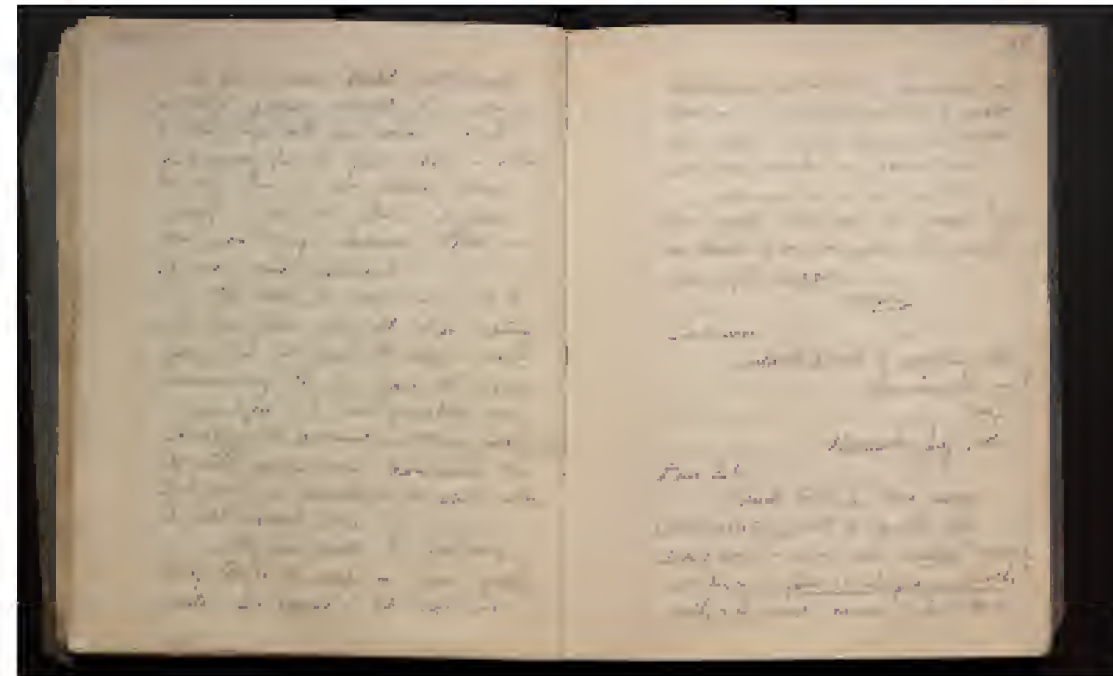
Harry

Bed time -- couldn't think of anything else!
Goodnight -- !
H.

Namuka, July 13th
Dear Ed --

Awoke today to clear skies (SUNSHINE!) and a gentle SE trade wind -- calm sea -- ideal canoe weather & a fair wind from Mothe! Willy & I much cheered - but did

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that son of a bitch come from Mothe? He did not!!

Now we don't know what to think -- something must be radically wrong in Mothe -- but what? There is nothing we can do but wait. Believe me I'm going to commandeer the first sea-going boat that arrives if I have to use my automatic!

I kept fairly busy all day -- reading Gardiner & Agassiz, etc., studying Fijian, taking movies, etc. Sent 3 of the Mbubis kids to the bush for land shells & they surely brought back plenty.

Took movies of a native pushing the copra around on the Chow's vats, a panorama of Namukai bay, a close-up of 2 young girls playing an intricate sort of hand-clapping game.

The Chow is now furnishing

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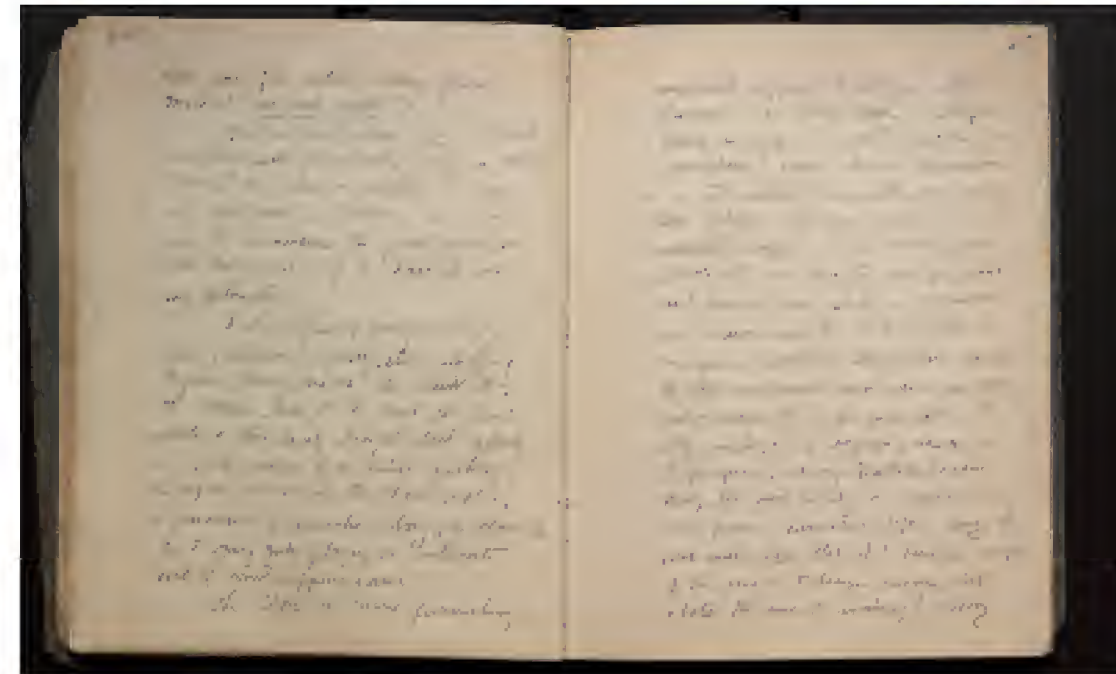
65

me with eggs -- 9 today! Have discovered a new dish -- tripe fried in eggs! -- with biscuits & raspberry jam it is delicious!

The lantern is lit now and I'm taking a yangana cocktail while awaiting supper. A month from tomorrow I'm due to head for Suva and here I am still in Namuka!

I wish now that I had taken all our gear to Mothe & stayed there but at the time we weren't even sure we could get a canoe there. We just took the trip in hope of engaging one & for the purpose of seeing Mothe and Karoni. Well, there will surely be a canoe in here from somewhere before long. I also wish now that I'd hired a couple of the small Fulanga canoes -- but what's the use of wishing! -- my

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luck will get me off before many days & I will have to catch up by dawn-to-twilight work days.

You must now be nearing Frisco and as the Aorangi reached Vancouver today Jane will soon have my Tuvutha' book -- I wonder if she will realize how history is repeating itself? -- no infected leg here anyway -- but I do have some fleas. They don't bother me much & looking for them gives me something to do!

Now arrives dinner. Come, trade places with me for a day or two, Ed, and you can have all the eggs! yes and half the jam!

Harry

Namuka, July 14th
Dear Ed --

An overcast day with showers

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at intervals. Light & fair wind from Mothe but no canoe came over. Tomorrow is Sunday so I see little chance of getting away for Yangasa' before Tuesday. However, we shall see.

I've just been checking up. July is 14 days old and its rained all but 3 of those days --- nice?

Office work of various kinds today. Nothing of any great interest -- but I did a land office business in 57 varieties of land shells! All the kids in the village want work!

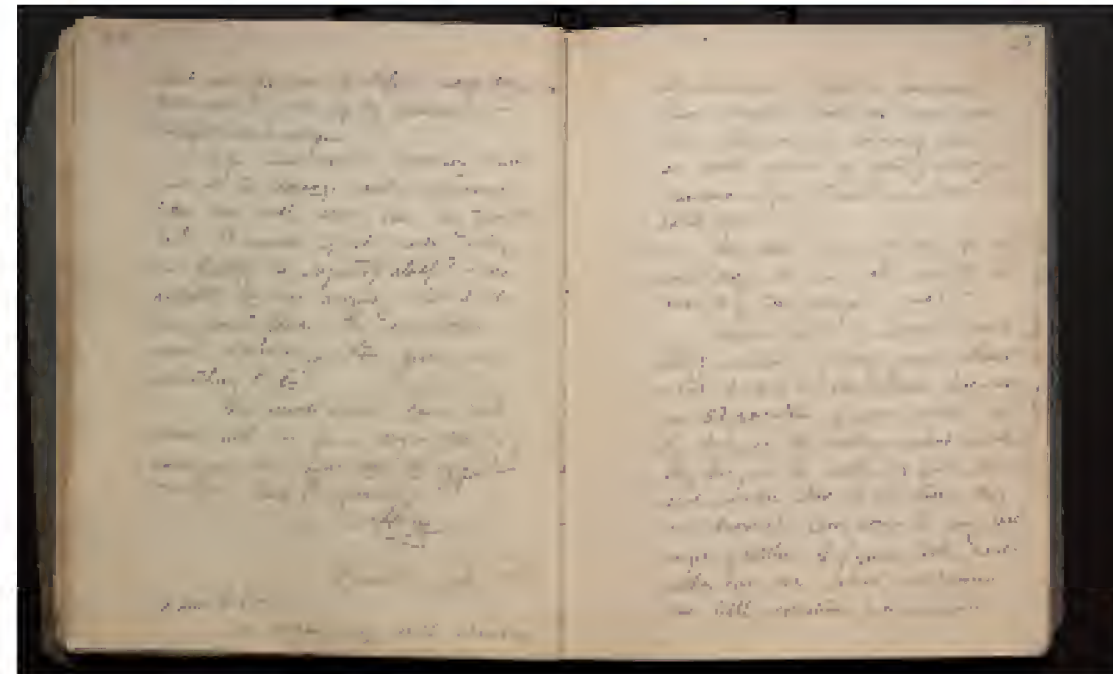
[[note from margin]]

Even the Mbuli collector!

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They bring in the bottles so full that each makes two by the time they are drowned. Am down to my last layer of bottles. I figure Cooke would rather have an island well covered than little collection from various

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islands (such as he already has from Bryan's work, etc.) -- as I'm making a killing. Cooke told the Tutings they made the best collection ever gotten from Kambara so I aim to do the same for Namuka. Am also going to get as many as possible in Yangasa' for I doubt if he has any from there -- Yangasa'! -- only 20 miles away! and here I sit day after day manufacturing jobs for myself.

Aimed to get out on the reef today for movies & stills & some sections but the weather did not permit.

Another large present of eggs from the Chow tonight. I'll soon be as tired of eggs as I am of the factories that make 'em!

Su mothe --

Harry

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Later --
Willy has discovered that a Fulanga canoe is due next week to take some Namuka people to Oneata. Ha! And "ace-in-the-hole" & something else to tie my hopes to! If necessary I'll buy that boat and elect myself captain!

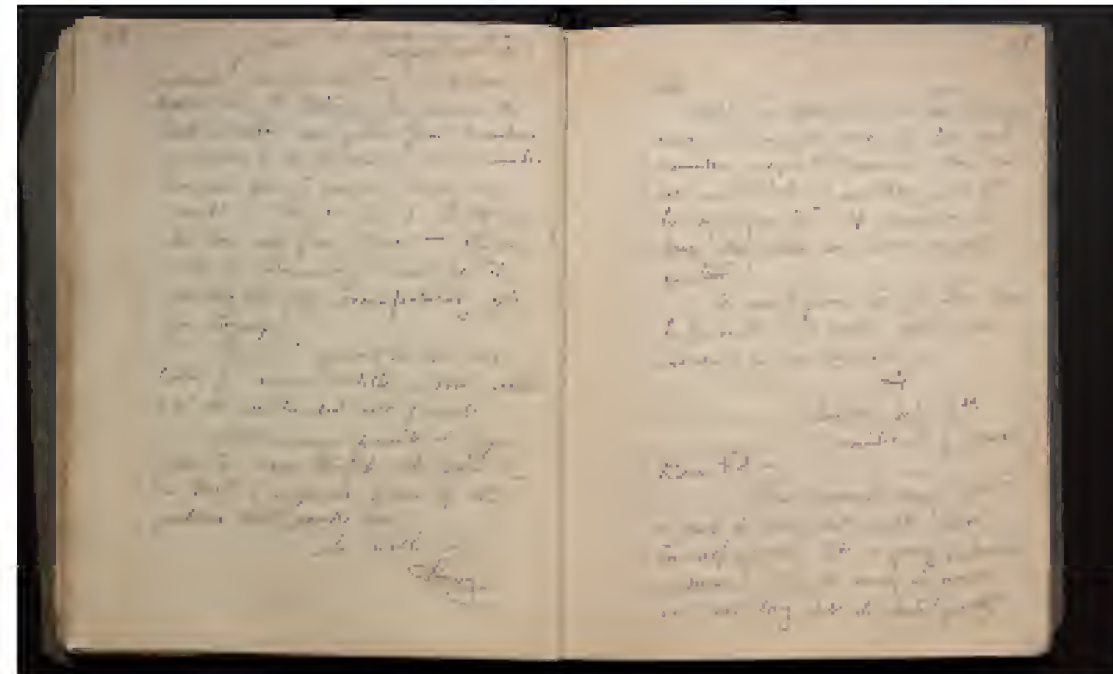
A month from tonight I'm due to be on the high seas headed for Suva -- and so I shall be!

H.

Sunday, July 15th
Namuka (of course!)
Dear Ed --

Christ how it rained after I went to bed last night! Our tin roof sounded like a gang of boiler makers! I thought surely it would not last long but it lasted pretty

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nearly all day. At bath time the wind shifted around to SE so, though it still looks threatening, I have hopes. No canoe could have come today so for the moment I'm not cursing the captain!

I wrote a 15-pager to friend Marcus & did some odd jobs but the rest of the day I loafed & slept -- waking up to eat eggs now & then!

The Chow was much impressed with my Thomas hair tonic & shampoo. -- Wanted to send to Suva for some even when I told the price was 8/0 per bottle. I told him they could only be gotten in America but he insists that you can get anything in Hong Kong so I finally gave in and wrote out the names for him!

More rain arriving right now. Ho-hum! Willy is as fed up

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with this place as I am -- Wish we had a Tuvutha' duck!

Cheerio --
Harry

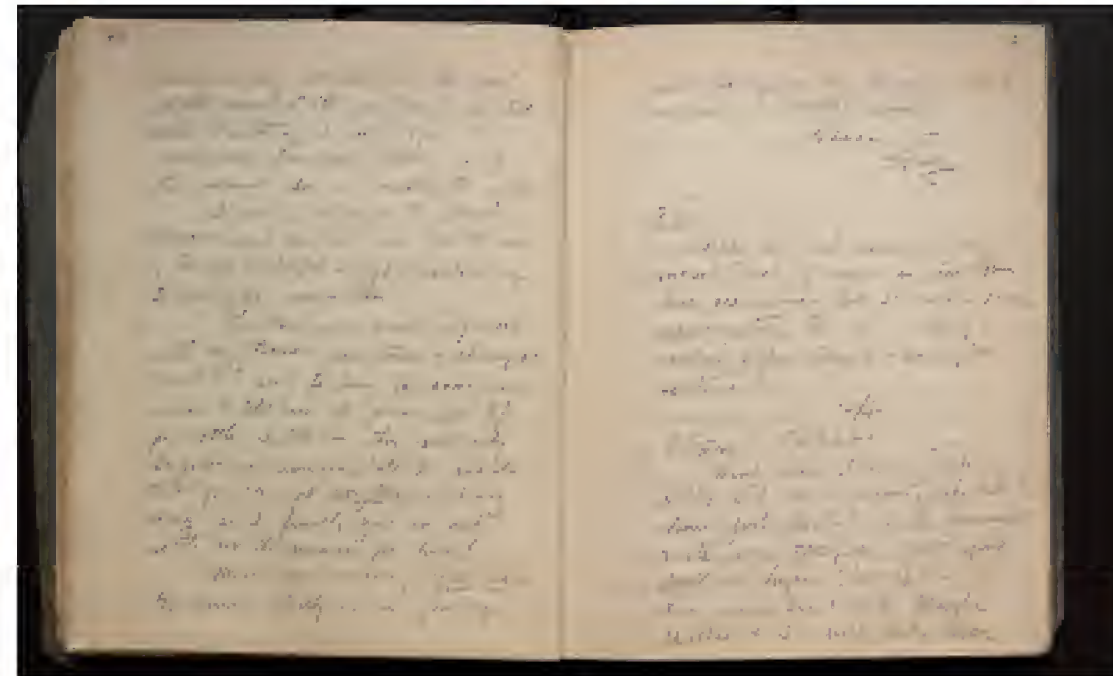
P.S. Willy has just discovered an ancient deck of cards in this town! Four are missing but I'll make some replacements. I'll be a hell of a devilish fellow tonight -- and play solitaire!

H.

8 ^{p.m.} 10 ^{p.m.} FLASH!

Wind now blowing "like billy-o"! -- and raining like hell! Have just looked at the barometer & its over 800 feet -- that's just about 100' higher (lower) than its been since I've had it. Maybe Willie and I will ride over

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to Yangosa' on the tail of a hurricane! Anything for a change! I'd welcome a first class hurricane with open arms! -- I now return to my deck of filthy cards!

H.

Namuka, July 16th
Dear Ed --

No luck even with high winds! By dawn it was clear and by 10 a.m. just a nice sailing breeze. I climbed the old warrior's hill from the landward side & took some views of the bay & the coast. The visibility was excellent. Yangosa', Ongia, Fulanga, Maramlo, Kamlara & Wangova -- all my islands in front of me -- but no canoe from Mothe! Its very discouraging, Ed. If the delay lasts much longer I'll have to give up

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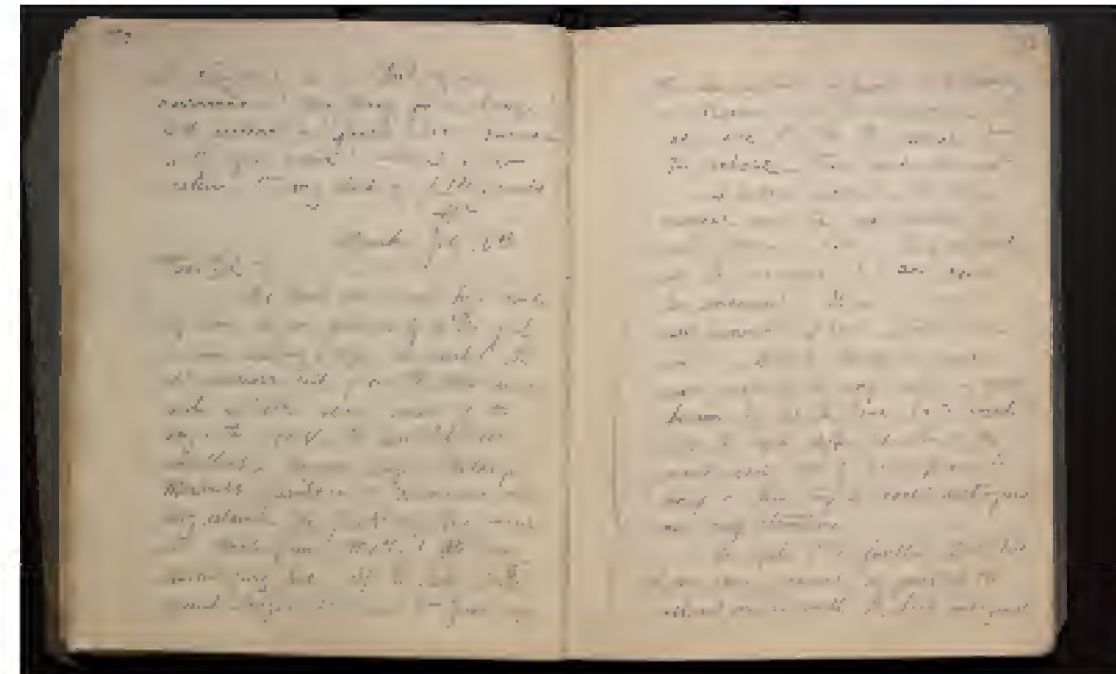
73

the ls. islands & travel to Lakumba or Naian on the Adimoci when she calls to take the Mbuli to the Mbose -- this week or next.

I didn't encounter the old warrior and its no wonder for in the caves & holes of the cliffside all the warriors of Lan could be concealed! If is as rough as any limestone I have treaded over -- and a terrible tangle of heavy vines most of the way. Got a good foram ls. at the base (on the inside) but the higher cliffs, like those on the north coast, are of coraliferous ls., though on this trip I could distinguish no reef structure.

In spite of the faulting that has, I am susre, removed a part of the island on the north the high marginal

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rims are well developed and there is another case to support our contention that elevated rims in ls. islands do not necessarily mean original reef rim. As I see it, corals grew on the original Namuka bank -- on a foundation of bedded foram ls. -- some of the later deposits were reef ls. but the present rims seem to be due almost entirely to erosion (solution).

Also, on the south coast a secondary ridge -- lower than the main one -- rims the coast. It is separated from the main rim by a flattened area. It is a condition very similar to what we found at Tuvutha'.

Before going to the field I took some movies -- a series of close ups of 3 Fijian girls,

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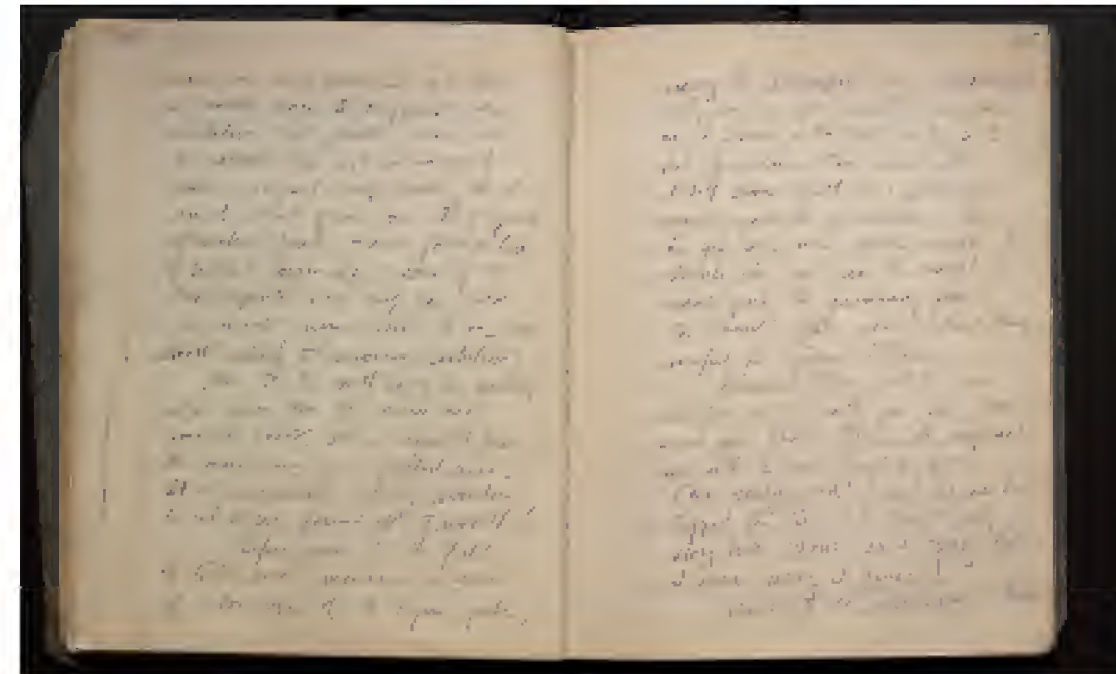
75

using the telescopic lens & dissolver. Only made one mistake as far as I know & that cost only 2-3 feet of film. Then used the F 1.9 lens (with CK 1 filter) for several portraits of children. Aim to get 2-3 men later -- Willy, the Muli, etc. and in the middle I shall put the grinning face of the Chow! You should find these useful for your talks.

Discovered today that the Chow has been out of milk for some time so I gave him a tin. He surprised me with 3 new English words. "This velly-good!", said as he tapped the tin. (I thought only story-book Chows said "belly" but I was wrong I guess!)

What to do tomorrow? That's

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the big question -- Its small consolation to remember that Smith was delayed 14 days on Kambara & that the Tutings put to sea in a canoe after a vain wait of a month!

I wish I had some liquor -- I'd like to be beautifully squiffed and stay that way till a sail was sighted! Love & kisses!
Harry

P.S.
The Mbuli is in for a bit of grog. He reckons that since there is plenty of land available, Willy & I had best settle down & start a bit of planting! Not a bad idea!
H.

P.P.S. --
Thava? Sa senga mai thatkathika? Oi? You'd be surprised! I've put in a full evening of Fijian -- mostly on its 45 possessive pronouns! H.

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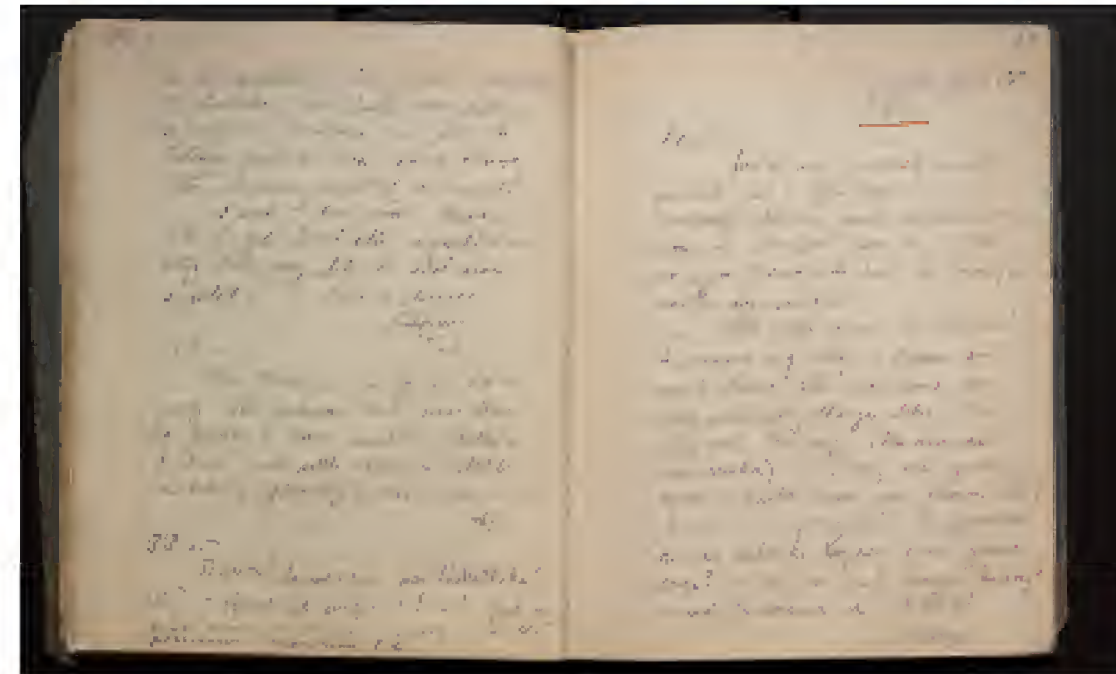
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Namuka July 17th
7 ¹⁵ a.m. [7:15 a.m. is underlined in red]

Dear Ed --
Just be way of variety I shall pencil you a few words in the morning! It was fairly clear at dawn but as breakfast came on the table it began to rain like hell. So here's for another day indoors.

While Willy cooked the "mad rice" I resumed my study of Fijian. I'm over to Lesson VII now and can say interesting things like "The dog and the pig" (Na kola kei na maka) -- "Bring me your drum" (Kanta mai na nomu lali) I can even formulate the question "Ko na lako ki Yangasa' e na yakavi ongo?" -- Will you go to Yangasa' this evening? -- and the answer is -- SENG! Harry.

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And here's for a sundowner --

Willy has got the Primus roaring under more rice for we are having curried beef tonight (Oh, goody-goody!)

I worked on cross-sections & did some writing in the morning. Surprising us all, the sun came out before noon so Willy & I took a canoe around the west horn of the bay & I tried some pictures to show bedding. More writing this afternoon (and more showers) and now the sun goes down -- and so does the yangona! I've just performed my nightly rite of drawing another red cross on the calendar. Today begins our third week on Namuka! The wind is now strong from the SW which is tough should anyone in Mothe by any remote possibility think of coming to Namuka. (heavy sarcasm!) Willy optimistically opines that the SW wind will bring more rain.

Cheerfully yours,
Harry

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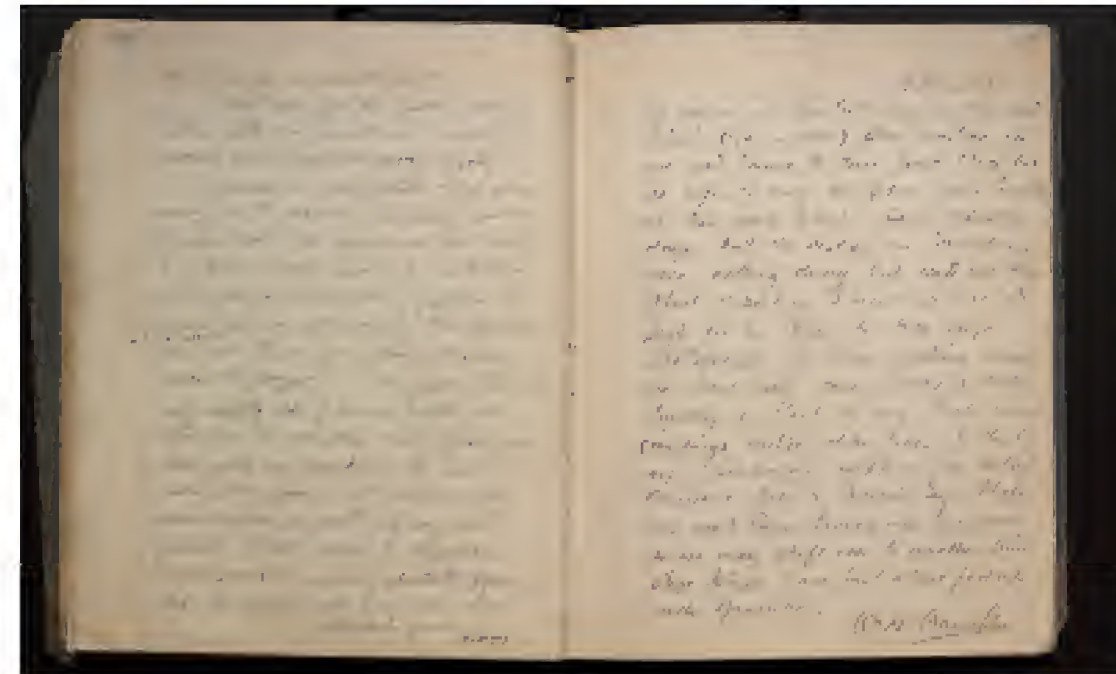
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17 July 1934

Today is our fourteenth day on this mad Island (Na muka) still waiting for one mad Canoe to come from [[Moce?]] but no sign of any sail yet. We have completed this mad island in nine days, but the rest of our five days here nothing doing but read all day. About 11.30 a.m. I went out with Dr. Ladd on a Canoe to take some photograph of shore Bedding around the west horn came back & had Lunch & start on my Book again (reading) until 4.30 p.m. I start on preparing supper, a pot of Chinese Rice & Curried Beef. I hope this mad Canoe turned up tomorrow so we may shift over to another Lime stone Island. I am just about fed up with Namuka.

Wm. M. [[Wainsfield?]]

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P.S.

Evei na nondaru wanga? Ongo? Senza! Su tko mai Mothe -- se mai na -
- boto-ni wasawasa-esi? An sa senza ni kila!

Sa Mothe --

H.

Namuska, July 18th

Dear Ed --

Spent the morning making a traverse to the broken country of the eastern end of the island -- 85 stations in 3600 paces! Improved the map a little but on the whole it hardly was worth while. Visited the cave used by the Chinaman who killed himself last year. Returned home at noon & planned an afternoon trip to a famous battle cave where (for once!) the Fijians licked the Tongans

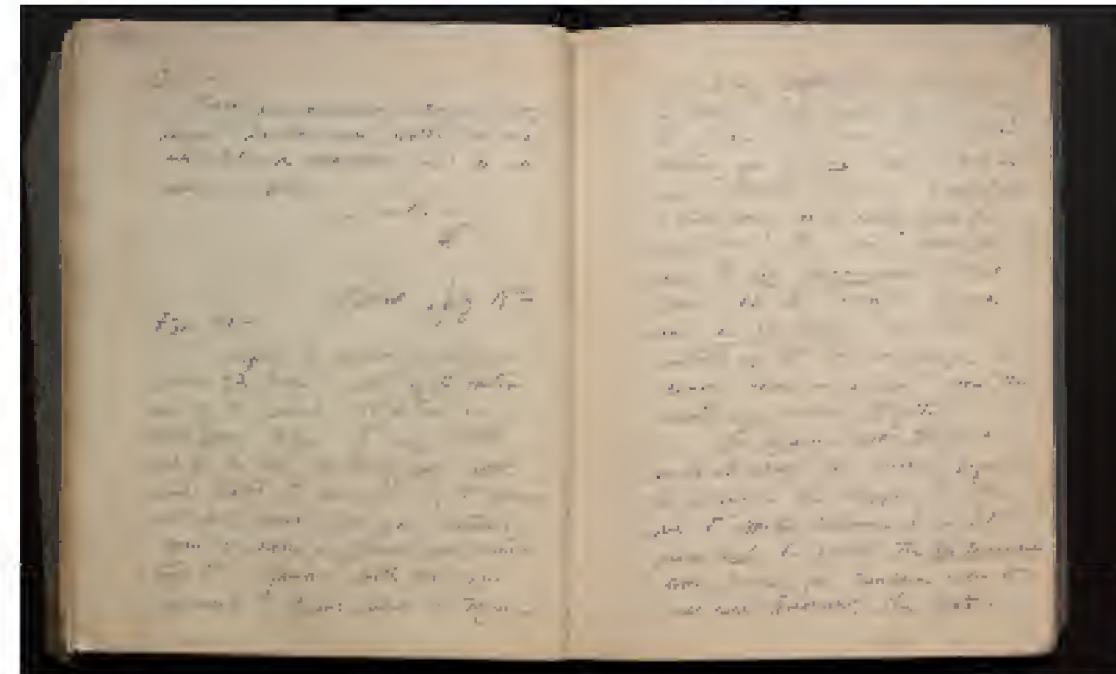
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-- or many cracked bones one said to testify. But,
just as I finished my tea I heard the sound I have been
listening for for days! -- all the kids in town
shouting "Sail ho!" I rushed out & there was a ketch coming past the west horn! The natives claimed she was the Adi
Tavanavanua but she looked like the Adimoci
to me and so she was! As she
motored up to the anchorage a canoe hove in sight! How them boats do
arrive together!

The Adimoci loads tonight & sails at dawn for Suva -- impossible to persuade the skipper to take us to Mothe because he is late now and he sighted the
Adi Tavanavanna today headed for Kambara & due to call here tomorrow. This boat is

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returning labor from Tavcuni & must call here so all will be well. The canoe was not ours (as I hoped) but a Fulanga load with 4 men, headed for Oneata. Good old Namuska -- "the crossroads of Lan"! -- but I'll thumb my nose at it with pleasure tomorrow or next day!

No mail for me except a University of Iowa bulletin (which, for once, I shall read!) and Stockwell's Victrola! B-P ignored my instructions & shipped it back to me instead of to Stockwell! Here I am with a Victrola and no records! Borrowed one of the Chow's squealing pieces just to be sure the machine works OK. It does -- now to get it back to Lomaloma!

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On the Ademoci came one European -- Mr. Crabbe -- recruiting native labor. He has had dinner with me (a good dinner - the best of my stores!) & I am enjoying my visit with him. We have many mutual friends.

He will mail this in Suva for me. Must now return to my duties as host.

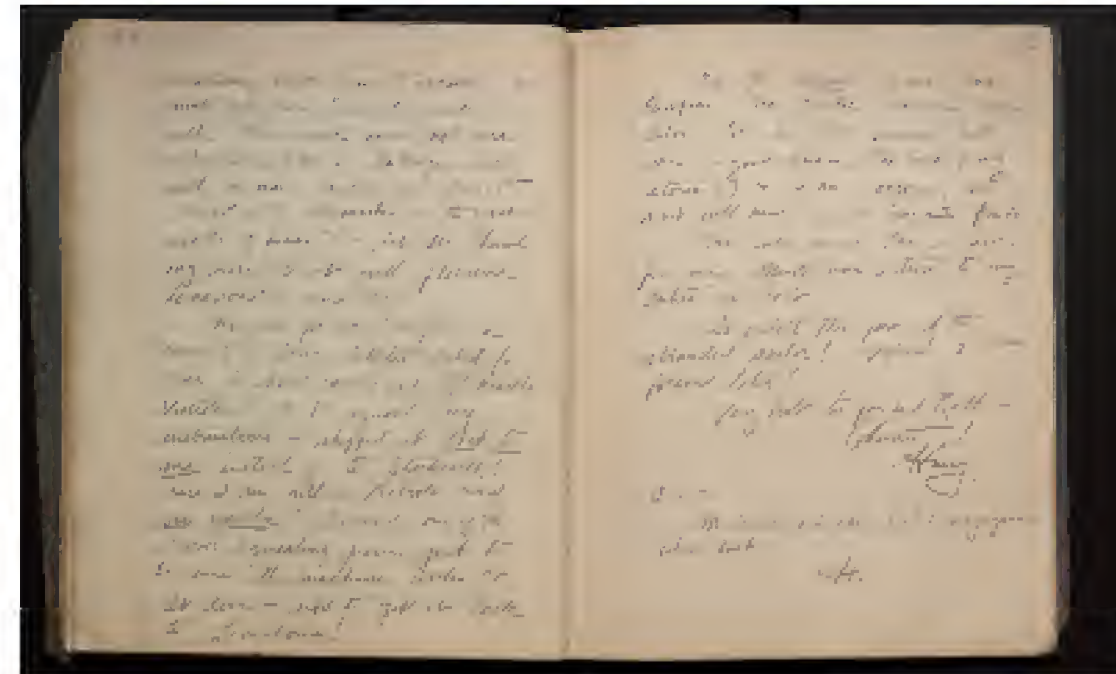
So endeth this yarn of the stranded sailor! Volume 2 to follow later!

Very best to you and Ruth --
Cheerio!
Harry

P.S.
Mr. Crabbe & I have traded magazines -- what luck!

H.

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